Australian secondary school students' use of tobacco, alcohol, and over-the-counter and illicit substances in 2014

Report

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Executive Summary

The 2014 Australian Secondary Students' Alcohol and Drug survey was conducted during the academic school year of 2014. This was the eleventh survey in a series that commenced in 1984 assessing use of tobacco and alcohol, and the seventh to include questions on the use of over-the-counter and illicit substances. Just over 23,000 secondary students aged between 12 and 17 years participated in the survey, in which they were asked about their lifetime and current use of tobacco, alcohol, analgesics, tranquilisers and illicit substances and related behaviours. In this report we present prevalence estimates of use for males and females aged between 12 and 17 years. We also compare estimates found in 2014 with those from surveys conducted in 2011 and 2008, and for these analyses we focus on estimates for: 12- to 15-year-olds, 16- and 17-year-olds and 12- to 17-year-olds.

Tobacco cigarettes

In 2014, 94% of 12-year-olds had no experience with smoking, which decreased to 61% of 17-year-olds. Only three per cent of all students had smoked more than 100 cigarettes in their lifetime, with a peak of 10% among 17-year-old males.

Students who smoked in the seven days preceding the survey are termed 'current smokers'. The percentage of students who were current smokers increased from one per cent of 12-year-olds to 12% of 17-year-olds. Only five per cent of all 12- to 17-year-old students were current smokers.

Winfield, JPS and Peter Jackson were the three most commonly smoked cigarette brands for adolescent current smokers.

In 2014, 14% of current smokers bought their last cigarette themselves. However, as in previous survey years, the single most common source of cigarettes for current smokers was friends (50%).

For the first time, students were asked if they had ever used roll-your-own tobacco or had ever used menthol hybrid/dual flavoured cigarettes. Fifty-two per cent of past-month smokers reported ever using menthol hybrid/dual flavoured cigarettes. Sixty-eight per cent of past-month smokers indicated ever using roll-your own tobacco.

The proportions of 12- to 17-year-olds smoking in each time period in 2014 were significantly lower than the proportions found in 2011 and 2008. For instance, in 2014, five per cent of 12- to 17-year-olds were current smokers, which was significantly lower than the seven per cent found in both 2011 and 2008.

Shisha/waterpipe tobacco, cigars/cigarillos and electronic cigarettes

For the first time, students were asked if they had ever used shisha/waterpipe tobacco, cigars/cigarillos or electronic cigarettes. Of all 12- to 17-year-olds, 10% had used shisha/waterpipe tobacco, five per cent had smoked a cigar/cigarillo and 13% had used an electronic cigarette. However, of all students only three per cent had used an electronic cigarette in the four weeks before the survey.

Alcohol

In 2014, almost half of all Australian secondary students aged between 12 and 17 years had consumed alcohol in the year preceding the survey. Only 32% of students reported never drinking alcohol.

The proportion of students who consumed alcohol in the week preceding the survey (current drinkers) increased with age, from four per cent of 12-year-olds to 36% of 17-year-olds. Nine per cent of 16-year-olds and 17% of 17-year-olds reported drinking five or more drinks on at least one of the past seven days.

Overall, 35% of current drinkers indicated they usually drank premixed spirits and 21% usually consumed spirits that were not premixed. Around 29% of males usually drank beer compared to only five per cent of females.

Parents were the most common source of alcohol for male (35%) and female (41%) current drinkers. Older current drinkers were more likely than younger current drinkers to get someone else to buy alcohol for them. Forty per cent of 16- and 17-year-old current drinkers consumed their last alcoholic drink at a party, compared to 26% of 12- to 15-year-old current drinkers. Younger students were more likely to consume their last alcoholic drink at home (40%), than older students (25%).

The proportion of 12- to 17-year-old students drinking in the past seven days (current drinkers), past month and in their lifetime in 2014 was significantly lower than in 2011 and 2008. The proportion of younger students who were current drinkers in 2014 (8%) was significantly lower than in 2008 (17%) and 2011 (11%).

Over-the-counter and illicit substances

Analgesics: Analgesics were the most commonly used substance (licit or illicit) with 95% of students aged 12 to 17 years having used an analgesic at some time in their lives. Females were more likely than males to use analgesics in all recency periods with for example 48% of females using analgesics in the week prior to the survey compared to 34% of males. The main reason for analgesic use was to help ease the pain associated with a headache/migraine (52%). For the majority of students (90%) parents were the main source of analgesics.

The proportion of students using analgesics in 2014 in their lifetime was lower than the proportion found in 2011, but not 2008. There was no change in the proportion using these substances in the month and week before the survey between 2008 and 2014 or between 2011 and 2014.

Tranquilisers: Of all students, 18% had used tranquilisers other than for medical reasons at some time in their lives. The proportion of students ever using tranquilisers increased with age. However, only three per cent of all students reported use in the past week. While the proportion of all students using tranquilisers in their lifetime had not changed between 2008 and 2014, the proportion reporting use in the past week in 2014 (3%) was significantly greater than in 2008 (2%) and 2011 (2%).

Cannabis: Cannabis was the most commonly used illicit substance with 16% of students aged between 12 and 17 years ever using cannabis and seven per cent using it in the month before the survey. The proportion of students using cannabis increased with age. The most common method of using cannabis was smoking it as a bong with 62% of males and 54% of

females who had used cannabis in the past year reporting this method of use. There were no significant differences in the proportion of students using cannabis in the past week, past month or lifetime between 2008 and 2014 or between 2011 and 2014.

Inhalants: Use of inhalants was negatively associated with age, with lifetime use decreasing from 19% of 12-year-olds to 10% of 17-year-olds. Six per cent of all students had used inhalants in the month before the survey. Lifetime use of inhalants among younger and older students decreased between 2008 and 2014), but not between 2011 and 2014. While past month use decreased significant between 2008 and 2014 in the younger age group, this trend was not found in the older age group.

Hallucinogens: Use of hallucinogens, such as LSD, was extremely low with 97% of all students never having used them. Age was positively related to hallucinogen use with prevalence of lifetime use peaking at six per cent in 17-year-olds. The proportion of 12- to 17-year-old students reporting past month hallucinogen use decreased significantly between 2008 and 2014 ($p<0.01$).

Amphetamines: Among all students, around two per cent had used amphetamines other than for medical reasons at some time in their lives. Lifetime use of amphetamines increased with age from one per cent of 12-year-olds to four per cent of 17-year-olds. While lifetime use of amphetamines decreased significantly between 2008 (4%) and 2014 (2%), there was no change between 2011 (3%) and 2014.

Performance or image enhancing drugs: A small proportion of students (2%) reported ever using performance or image enhancing drugs, such as steroids, without a doctor's prescription. For 12- to 17-year-olds, there was no change in the proportion using performance or image enhancing drugs in their lifetime between 2014 and 2011 or 2008.

Opiates: The use of opiates or narcotics such as heroin or morphine was very uncommon, with only two per cent of all students ever having used this substance. The proportion of students reporting lifetime opiate use decreased between 2008 and 2014.

Cocaine: The vast majority (98%) of all secondary school students had never used cocaine. Among 12- to 17-year-olds, there was a decrease in the proportion reporting to have used cocaine in their lifetime between 2008 and 2014.

Ecstasy: Around three per cent of all students reported using ecstasy at some time in their lives. The proportion of students who had ever used ecstasy increased significantly with age, peaking at seven per cent in 17-year-olds. The proportion of 12- to 17-year-olds using ecstasy in their lifetime in 2014 was lower than in 2008 ($p<0.01$), but similar to 2011. While the proportion of 12- to 17-year-olds using ecstasy in the past month in 2014 was significantly lower than in 2008 it was significantly higher than in 2011.

Ethno-botanicals: The vast majority (98%) of secondary school students had not used ethno-botanicals such as Salvia, Kraton, Khat or Kava in the year prior to the survey.

Synthetic drugs: Use of synthetic substances such as synthetic cannabis and MDVP was very low, with 98% of all students reporting no use in the past 12 months. Synthetic cannabis was the most common synthetic drug used, with two per cent of students reporting use in the past 12 months.

Use of health services for alcohol use, drug use, emotional problems or behavioural problems

Eight per cent of all 12- to 17-year-old students reported that they had been diagnosed or told by a doctor or nurse that they have a mental health condition. The majority of students had not seen a health professional in the past 12 months for alcohol or drug use, or emotional or behavioural problems (91%). Of those students who had seen a health professional, the most commonly reported health professional seen was a psychologist/counsellor or family therapist.

1 Introduction

The Australian Secondary Students' Alcohol and Drug Survey

The Australian Secondary Students' Alcohol and Drug survey (ASSAD) is a triennial national survey of students' use of licit and illicit substances. It was developed from a triennial national survey assessing students' use of alcohol and tobacco that commenced in 1984 and was conducted collaboratively by Cancer Councils across Australia and the Western Australian Health Department. In 1996, the survey was expanded to include questions on the use of illicit substances, and federal, state and territory health departments became collaborators in the project. The ASSAD study was designed to provide estimates of the current prevalence of use of tobacco, alcohol and illicit substances among Australian school students aged 12 to 17 years, and to examine trends in their use of these substances.

The design of the 2014 ASSAD survey was the same as in previous survey years. As in previous ASSAD surveys over 20,000 students aged 12 to 17 years participated in the 2014 survey, making ASSAD the largest survey of adolescent substance use in Australia. The sample for ASSAD was based on secondary schools throughout Australia so adolescents who are not at school are not included in the survey.

The 2014 survey was the eleventh conducted in this survey series. Previous surveys were conducted in 1984, 1987, 1990 and 1993 (alcohol and tobacco only), and 1996, 1999, 2002, 2005, 2008 and 2011 (including over-the-counter and illicit substances).

2 Method

2.1 Sample selection

The target population for sampling was all students in Years 7 to 12 across Australia. The Australian Centre for Education Research (ACER) drew the national school sample for the study. ACER based their sampling procedures on enrolment data for 2012 as these were the most up-to-date data available to them. Schools with fewer than 100 students enrolled were excluded from the sampling frame.

Within each state and territory, schools were sampled using a random sampling methodology designed to represent students from the three main education sectors: government, Catholic and independent. The basic design of the sampling procedure was a stratified two-stage probability sample, with schools selected at the first stage of sampling, and students selected within schools at the second stage of sampling. Within each state and territory, schools were stratified by the three education sectors and randomly selected from each sector to ensure that the distribution of schools in the three education sectors within a state/territory was reflected in the sample. Two samples of schools were drawn to reflect the distinction between junior secondary (up to Year 10) and senior secondary (Years 11 and 12) campuses. In South Australia, Western Australia and Queensland, Year 7 students are generally still in the primary school system. Therefore, primary schools associated with participating secondary schools in these states were approached regarding the surveying of Year 7 students.

The study aimed to survey students from 417 schools across the country. To achieve this, 1314 secondary schools were approached to take part in the study. Three hundred and fifty-two secondary schools participated in the study, giving an overall response rate for secondary schools of 27%. This was lower than the response rate achieved in 2011 and 2008. The most common reasons for non-participation of secondary schools in 2014 were multiple survey requests from various organisations (unable to meet all requests), timing of request (close to exams, school camps, students participating in work experience) and lack of staff time to coordinate survey.

The low school response rate is a potential limitation, however the use of replacement schools with similar characteristics to sampled schools helped maintain the representativeness of the school sample.

All surveying took place in the 2014 academic school year.

2.2 Procedure

Principals of selected schools were contacted and permission to conduct the survey at the school was sought. If a school refused, they were replaced by the school geographically nearest to them within the same education sector.

Since the 2000s, an increasing number of education authorities and individual schools have required that active parental consent be obtained before students participate in the study. Active parental consent requires that the student return a consent form showing that their parents have approved their participation in the study. If a consent form is not returned, the student cannot participate in the study. This requirement can reduce the participation rate of students, unless teachers actively assist in reminding students to return their consent

forms. Past experience has indicated that teachers are more likely to assist in this task, and consequently response rates improved, when students surveyed are from an intact class rather than a random selection within a year level. In states and territories requiring active parental consent, intact classes of students were randomly selected within the required year levels. Only classes where students were not selected on any ability or performance measure were included in this process. This ensured a representative cross-section of the student population in each year level. Surveying students from intact classes was also followed when principals of individual schools were otherwise unable to permit participation of their school.

Following the protocol used in past surveys, on a day agreed with the school, members of the research team attended the school to administer the pencil-and-paper questionnaire to classes of students on the school premises.

The policy of the education departments in each state and territory, and the policies of individual schools determined whether teachers remained in the room when the survey was being administered. Most schools required this in 2014, with 88% of students completing the questionnaire in the presence of teachers. This proportion was similar to 2011 when 90% of students completed the survey in the presence of a teacher. If a teacher was present when the survey was conducted, they remained at the front or back of the room and did not participate in the survey session. In general, there was a pattern where students completing the survey in the presence of a teacher were less likely to report use of tobacco, however most of these differences were not statistically significant at $p<0.01$. The exceptions to this were for 13- and 17-year-olds where prevalence estimates for use in the past 12 months, past four weeks and past seven days were lower when the teacher was present. For alcohol use, younger students completing the survey in the presence of a teacher were less likely to report use of alcohol, although except for 13 year olds, these differences were generally not statistically significant at $p<0.01$. There were few differences in reporting of illicit substance use when students completed the survey in the presence or absence of a teacher. However, differences found for illicit substance use were opposite to those found for tobacco or alcohol, with higher use found when a teacher was present.

2.3 Questionnaire

In 2014, students completed a 16-page core questionnaire (refer to Appendix 1). The questionnaire covered the use of tobacco, alcohol, analgesics, tranquilisers and the use of illicit substances such as cannabis and hallucinogens. Questions assessing students' use of synthetic substances, students' mental health and use of health services were also included in 2014 core questionnaire (refer to Appendix 1). To reduce order effects, two versions of the questionnaire were used. The first version commenced with alcohol-related questions, and the second commenced with tobacco-related questions. Questions regarding use of other substances followed both the alcohol and tobacco sections.

2.3.1 Tobacco cigarette use questions

The majority of questions on tobacco contained in the core questionnaire were identical to those used in previous survey years. Questions assessed 'ever use' of tobacco, use in the past 12 months, four weeks and on each of the seven days preceding the survey. Students who had used tobacco in the previous seven days were asked to indicate the usual brand they smoked, the usual packet size of the brand they smoked and the source of their last cigarette. If students indicated that someone else had bought the last cigarette for them,

they were asked to indicate who this person was. Students also indicated their intention to smoke cigarettes in the next 12 months, and indicated whether they saw themselves as a non-smoker, an ex-smoker, an occasional smoker, a light smoker or a heavy smoker.

The 2014 survey also included for the first time questions assessing students' lifetime use of menthol hybrid/dual flavoured cigarettes (response options: never, once, 2-3 times, 4-5 times or 6 or more times), roll-your-own tobacco, shisha/waterpipe tobacco and cigars/cigarillos (response options: never, 1-2, 3-5, 6-9, 10-19, 20-39 and 40 or more times). Students also indicated if they had ever used electronic cigarettes (response options: yes or no), recency of use (response options: within the past four weeks, within the past 12 months, longer than 12 months ago) and whether the last electronic cigarette smoked contained nicotine (response options: yes, no, I don't know).

2.3.2 Alcohol questions

The alcohol-related questions contained in the questionnaire were similar to those used in previous surveys. Questions assessed 'ever use' of alcohol, use of alcohol in the past 12 months, four weeks and on each of the seven days preceding the survey. Students who had ever used alcohol were asked to indicate the usual type of alcohol consumed (e.g. beer, wine, spirits, premixed), the source of their last alcoholic drink and where they consumed this drink.

Students also indicated whether they saw themselves as a non-drinker, a party drinker, an occasional drinker, a light drinker or a heavy drinker. Two new alcohol-related questions were added to the 2011 survey and included in the 2014 survey. The first question asked students who had ever consumed alcohol to indicate if any of 20 specified outcomes or events occurred after they had consumed alcohol in the past 12 months. The outcomes and events included: being sick (vomiting), arguing, being in a fight, verbally abusing someone, needing to go to the hospital and missing school. Students could indicate that none of the listed events had happened. In addition, students indicated how often they intended to get drunk when they consumed alcohol. The 2014 survey included for the first time, a question assessing how many times students had consumed five or more alcoholic drinks on any one occasion in the past two weeks, four weeks, year and lifetime using the response options: never, 1-2 times, 3-5 times, 6-9 times, 10-19 times, 20-29 times and 40 or more times.

2.3.3 Over-the-counter and illicit drug questions

The over-the-counter and illicit substances covered in the questionnaire were analgesics, tranquilisers, cannabis, inhalants, hallucinogens, amphetamines, performance or image enhancing drugs, opiates, cocaine and ecstasy. For each substance, the technical name was used in the question and was accompanied by explanations, examples and alternative terminology to clarify the substance.

For each substance, students were asked to indicate the number of times, if ever, they had used or taken the substance in four time periods: past week, past four weeks, past year and their lifetime. Students could choose from seven response categories, ranging from 'none' to '40 or more times'. Questions concerning the use of tranquilisers, steroids, amphetamines and opiates explicitly asked about the non-medical use of these substances.

Students were also asked to indicate their reasons for using their last analgesic and how they obtained it. Students who had used tranquilisers were also asked how they obtained them. Students who had used tranquilisers, cannabis, amphetamines, ecstasy and hallucinogens in

the past year were asked if they had used any other substance(s) on the same occasion as using these substances. Students indicated the substances they had used from a list that included alcohol, tobacco, analgesics, tranquilisers, cannabis, amphetamines and hallucinogens.

Students who had used cannabis in the past year were asked to indicate if they usually consumed it by themselves, with others, or by themselves and with others equally often. They were also asked to indicate where they usually used cannabis and how it was usually used (e.g. joint, bong, as food).

2.3.4 Ethno-botanicals and synthetic substances

The 2014 survey also included for the first time questions assessing use of ethno-botanical substances in the past year (response: yes, no) and use of synthetic substances in the past year. For synthetic substance use, students were provided with a list of four different types of synthetic substances and allowed a free text response where they could indicate use of other synthetic substances. Students indicated the type of substance used or ticked a response indicating they did not use any synthetic substance.

2.3.5 Use of health services for alcohol use, drug use, emotional problems or behavioural problems

Questions assessing whether students have been diagnosed or told by a doctor or nurse that they have a mental health condition and their use of services for alcohol use, drug use, emotional problems or behavioural problems were included in the 2014 core questionnaire. Students who had seen a health professional about their mental health or substance use were also asked to indicate the type of health professional seen and where they generally saw these health professionals (e.g. at school, Doctor's rooms or other private practice).

2.4 Data entry and cleaning

Questionnaires from all states and territories were catalogued by the Centre for Behavioural Research in Cancer at Cancer Council Victoria. Questionnaires were scanned and converted into data files, and were cleaned by Cancer Council Victoria. Cleaning followed the same procedures as used in previous survey years (refer to Appendix 2). Students with a large amount of missing data or whose responses were wildly exaggerated were removed from the data set before analyses started.

2.5 Sample size

A total of 24,052 students in Years 7 to 12 were surveyed from schools across Australia during the survey period. Ninety-two cases were removed after data cleaning due to large amounts of missing data or wildly exaggerated responses, leaving a total of 23,960 valid cases. A total of 23,007 male and female students were aged between 12 and 17 years (Table 2.1). Data from students outside this age range were excluded from analyses.

Table 2.1: Number of secondary school students aged between 12 and 17 years surveyed across Australia in 2014, by age and sex

	Age (years)						
Gender	12	13	14	15	16	17	12-17
Males	956	2181	2354	2142	1930	1431	10994

Gender	Age (years) 12	13	14	15	16	17	12-17
Females	1082	2384	2345	2133	2342	1727	12013
Total	2038	4565	4699	4275	4272	3158	23007

2.6 Data analyses

Analyses cover students aged 12 to 17 years. To ensure that disproportionate sampling of any state/territory, education sector, age and sex grouping did not bias the prevalence estimates, data were weighted to bring the achieved sample into line with the distribution of the population of 12- to 17-year-olds in secondary schools throughout Australia. The prevalence estimates reported here are based on weighted data. Enrolment details of male and female students in each age group at government, Catholic and independent schools were obtained from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) (refer to Appendix 3).

In Australia, school year levels contain a mix of ages with, for example, Year 9 containing mainly students aged 14 and 15 years. As the school year progresses, more students will be in the older age group for a year level. In 2014, some states/territories conducted the survey slightly later in the school year than in 2011 or 2008. This means that a greater proportion of students in the each year level could be in the older age group for that year level. To examine the impact of this on findings from the study, an additional set of weights were calculated to account for any disproportionate sampling of age and sex within year levels. Enrolment data from the ABS provided population estimates of age within year levels for each education sector within each state/territory.

A comparison of the effect of the two different weights on prevalence estimates showed little difference in the estimates produced for smoking (refer to Appendix 7) and illicit substance use (refer to Appendix 9). However for alcohol use, comparison of the effect of the two different weights showed several statistical differences for the 16- and 17-year-olds. This suggests that year level in addition to age is associated with alcohol use, at least for the older age groups. These differences are described in Appendix 8. For consistency with methods used in previous studies, in this report we use the age and sex weight. However, for completeness, prevalence estimates for each age and sex group when data are weighted by sex and age within year level within education sector are provided in Appendix 7 for tobacco, Appendix 8 for alcohol and Appendix 9 for illicit substances. Trends in prevalence of smoking, alcohol and illicit substance use between 2008 and 2014 are also examined when data are weighted by age and sex within year level within education sector. In general the pattern of change found when using the age and sex weight was also found when using the alternative weighting factor. For completeness we report the trends for estimates obtained when using the age and sex within year level within education sector weights in Appendix 7 for tobacco, Appendix 8 for alcohol and Appendix 9 for illicit substances.

If respondents did not answer questions or gave invalid or multiple responses to a question, they are excluded from analyses involving that question. However, these respondents were included in analysis of other questions if responses to these questions were valid.

As this report is based on data from a sample and not on a census of the total population, it is necessary to allow for sampling error. Prevalence estimates reported for the entire sample are provided for information, regardless of the confidence interval associated with them. For percentages or proportions, the sampling error is generally indicated by the 95%

confidence interval. The 95% confidence interval is based on both the number of students in the specific group examined (e.g. 12-year-old males) and the percentage reported (e.g. 15%). The confidence interval is larger when the sample size is smaller and the estimate is closer to 50%. For the 2014 survey, the largest confidence interval will be found for 12-year-old males, as this group has the smallest sample size (n=956). The 95% confidence interval for 12-year-old males around an estimate of 50% is ± 3.2%. This means that if the survey was repeated 100 times, the percentage estimate obtained for 12-year-old males would be between 46.8% and 53.2% in 95 of these surveys. Thus we are 95% confident that the prevalence estimates for use of different substances in each age and sex group in the sample are within ±3.2% of the population values. When interpreting results, readers should refer to the table of 95% confidence intervals associated with the sample size achieved for each age and sex group (refer to Appendix 4).

A number of tables in this report present results for specific sub-groups (e.g. current smokers or past-year cannabis users). It is also important to note that when percentages are reported for specific sub-groups of students, the 95% confidence intervals may be wider than 3.2% as the sample size for the subgroup may be smaller than that for 12-year-old males. In 2014, the number of students within a specific age (e.g. 12- or 13-year-olds) who had used some substances in different time periods was small (e.g. only 11 males and 18 females aged 12 had smoked in the past month). To reduce the likelihood of reporting proportions when the sample size for a specific subgroup or age within a subgroup was small (under 100 students), when reporting proportions for some specific subgroups (e.g. current smokers) data are combined for 12- to 15-year-olds and for 16- and 17-year-olds.

Due to the large sample size and probability of type 1 error, only associations statistically significant at the $p<0.01$ are discussed in this report.

2.7 Definitions of substances

The substance categories used in this report were identical to the categories used in the questionnaire and adhere to the descriptions and examples provided to students.

The substance categories are as follows:

List of substance	Description
Alcohol:	Ordinary beer, low alcohol beer, wine, wine cooler, champagne or sparkling wine, alcoholic cider, alcoholic energy drinks, premixed spirits, spirits, liqueurs, sherry or port.
Amphetamines:	Amphetamines or speed, uppers, goey, crystal meth, dex, dexie's, dexamphetamine, ox blood, methamphetamine or ice, other than for medical reasons.
Analgesics:	Painkillers/analgesics such as 'Disprin', 'Panadol' or 'Nurofen'.
Cannabis:	Marijuana, grass, hash, cannabis, dope, weed, mull, yardi, ganga, pot, a bong, or a joint.
Cocaine:	Cocaine.
Ecstasy:	Ecstasy or XTC, E, MDMA, eccy, X, bickies.
Electronic cigarettes:	Battery operated electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes).
Ethno-botanicals:	Salvia, Kraton, Khat, Kava.

List of substance	Description
Hallucinogens:	LSD, acid, trips, magic mushrooms, datura, angel's trumpet.
Inhalants:	Deliberately sniffed (inhaled) from spray cans or sniffed things like glue, paint, petrol or thinners in order to get high or for the way it makes you feel.
Opiates:	Heroin, smack, horse, skag, hammer, H, or other opiates (narcotics) such as methadone, morphine, oxycodone or pethidine other than for medical reasons.
Performance or image enhancing drugs:	Steroids, muscle, roids or gear, without a doctor's prescription 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, emerging synthetic hallucinogens, MDPV, mephedrone, other synthetic substance.
Tobacco:	Cigarettes.
Tranquilisers:	Sleeping tablets, tranquillisers, sedatives or benzodiazepines, such as valium, mogadon, diazepam, temazepam (mazzies, vallies, moggies, jellies), serepax (serries) or rohypnol (rohies, barbs), for non-medical reasons.

2.8 Definitions of frequency of use of different substances

2.8.1 Tobacco

In this report the term 'smoker' and 'tobacco use' refers to use of cigarettes. Students were asked if they had smoked cigarettes in their lifetime, in the past 12 months and past four weeks, and were then asked to indicate the number of cigarettes smoked on each of the seven days preceding the day of the survey. The prevalence of tobacco use within these time periods is reported for all male and female students in each age group between 12 and 17 years. Students who have used cigarettes within the different time periods are referred to as various types of smokers.

The categories of tobacco use and type of smoker are:

Categories	Type of smokers
Never used (never smoked):	Students who had not had even a puff of a cigarette.
Ever used (ever smoked):	Students who had smoked at least a few puffs of a cigarette in their lifetime.
More than 100 cigarettes in lifetime:	Students who had smoked more than 100 cigarettes in their lifetime.
Past-year smokers:	Students who had smoked cigarettes in the past 12 months.
Past-month smokers:	Students who had smoked cigarettes in the past four weeks.
Current smokers:	Students who had smoked cigarettes on at least one of the seven days preceding the day of the survey (past week).

Categories	Type of smokers
Committed smokers:	Students who had smoked cigarettes on at least three of the seven days preceding the day of the survey.
Daily smokers:	Students who had smoked on each of the seven days preceding the day of the survey.

2.8.2 Alcohol use

Students were asked if they had consumed alcohol in their lifetime, in the past year and past month. They were then asked to indicate the number of alcoholic drinks they consumed on each of the seven days preceding the day of the survey. Prevalence of use within these time periods is reported for all male and female students, in each age group between 12 and 17 years.

The categories of alcohol use are:

Categories	Alcohol users
Never used:	Students who had not had even a sip of an alcoholic drink in their lifetime.
Ever used:	Students who indicated they had consumed at least a few sips of an alcoholic drink in their lifetime.
Past year drinkers:	Students who had consumed an alcoholic drink in the past 12 months.
Past month drinkers:	Students who had consumed an alcoholic drink in the four weeks prior to completing the survey.
Current drinkers:	Students who had consumed an alcoholic drink on at least one of the seven days prior to completing the survey (past week).
Single occasion risky drinkers	Students who consumed five or more alcoholic drinks on any day in the past week were considered to be putting themselves at risk of short-term harm, according to the 2009 NHMRC drinking guidelines for adults.

The 2009 NHMRC alcohol use guidelines recommend that abstaining from alcohol consumption is the safest option for people under the age of 18 years. Given this recommendation, the proportion of students who had ever had an alcoholic drink or had consumed alcohol in any of the recency periods listed above reflect the proportions of students not adhering to this guideline.

As in previous survey years, the percentage of students drinking at levels that could result in short-term harm was examined, based on NHMRC drinking guidelines to reduce health risks from drinking alcohol. These guidelines were updated in 2009 and suggest that adults who consume five or more drinks on any day are putting themselves at risk of short-term harm. While this guideline is for adults, it is of interest to examine the current adolescent cohort's alcohol consumption at this risky level.

2.8.3 Drug use

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

The categories of drug use reported are:

Categories	Drug users
Never used:	Students who had never used the substance.
Ever used:	Students who had used the substance in their lifetime.
Past year:	Students who had used the substance in the past year.
Past month:	Students who had used the substance in the four weeks prior to completing the survey.
Past week:	Students who had used the substance in the seven days prior to completing the survey.
Regular use:	Students who used the substance 10 or more times in the past year.

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

3 Tobacco use among Australian Secondary Students

3.1 How many Australian secondary school students were involved with smoking cigarettes in 2014?

Table 3.1 Lifetime experience and current cigarette smoking, by age and sex, Australia, 2014#

	Age (years)						
	12 (%)	13 (%)	14 (%)	15 (%)	16 (%)	17 (%)	12-17 (%)
Never smoked							
Males	93.6	91.4	86.1	79.4	70.3	63.2	81.6
Females	95.2	92.2	85.3	76.9	67.3	58.6	80.2
Total	94.4	91.8	85.7	78.2	68.8	60.9	80.9
More than 100 cigarettes in lifetime							
Males	0.4	0.6	1.3	2.5	6.2	9.5	3.1
Females	0.1	0.2	1.5	2.8	3.6	6.2	2.3
Total	0.3	0.4	1.4	2.7	4.9	7.9	2.7
Past year							
Males	2.9	5.3	8.6	14.7	21.6	27.7	12.7
Females	2.6	5.5	10.9	17.2	25.3	33.6	15.0
Total	2.7	5.4	9.7	15.9	23.5	30.7	13.8
Past month							
Males	1.2	2.9	4.1	7.3	13.8	17.6	7.3
Females	1.6	2.7	6.1	8.8	12.3	17.1	7.7
Total	1.4	2.8	5.1	8.0	13.1	17.3	7.5
Current smokers (smoked in past seven days)							
Males	1.2	1.8	3.1	5.1	10.3	13.4	5.4
Females	0.9	1.8	4.0	5.9	7.3	10.9	4.9
Total	1.1	1.8	3.5	5.5	8.8	12.1	5.1
Committed smokers (3+ days in past 7 days)							

	Age (years)						
	12 (%)	13 (%)	14 (%)	15 (%)	16 (%)	17 (%)	12-17 (%)
Males	0.9	0.9	1.6	2.7	6.0	8.3	3.1
Females	0.1	0.9	2.0	3.5	3.6	5.3	2.5
Total	0.5	0.9	1.8	3.1	4.8	6.8	2.8
Estimated number of current smokers^^							
Males	1734	2563	4451	7177	13695	13643	43263
Females	1188	2508	5446	7961	9499	11134	37736
Total	2922	5071	9897	15138	23194	24777	80999

 # Prevalence estimates are within ±3.2 of population values (see section 2.6). See Appendix 4 for 95% confidence interval estimates for different percentages for each age and sex group.

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

Table 3.1 shows the proportion of males and females smoking cigarettes in different time periods at each age.

Involvement with smoking became more common as adolescents progress through secondary school.

In 2014, 81% of all secondary students in Australia had no experience with smoking. While the proportion of students who had never smoked decreased with age, 61% of 17-year-olds had still never smoked.

Around three per cent of all students had smoked more than 100 cigarettes in their lifetime, which peaked at eight per cent for 17-year-olds.

The proportion of students smoking in the previous four weeks (past-month smokers) increased from one per cent of 12-year-olds to 17% of 17-year-olds.

The proportion of students who were current smokers in 2014 increased from one per cent of 12-year-olds to 12% of 17-year-olds.

Only around three per cent of all students had smoked on three or more of the past seven days (committed smokers), with this peaking at seven per cent of 17-year-olds.

While in general the prevalence of smoking among male and female students was fairly similar, there were some differences with most of these found for the older students. For 16- and 17-year-olds, while more males than females had smoked 100 cigarettes in their lifetime ($p<0.01$), more females than males in these two ages had smoked in the past year ($p<0.01$). Smoking in the past seven days was more common for males than females aged 16 ($p<0.01$). Committed smoking was more common among males than females aged 16 and 17 years ($p<0.01$). Differences at the other ages were: 14-year-olds, more females than males smoked in the past month ($p<0.01$); 12-year-olds, more males than females smoked on three or more of the past seven days ($p<0.01$).

Extrapolating the sample results to the Australian student population, it is estimated that just under 81,000 12- to 17-year-olds students in Australia had smoked at least one cigarette in the seven days preceding the survey (current smokers).

Table 7A 1 in Appendix 7 shows the proportion of students reporting smoking in the different time periods when data are weighted for age and sex within year level within education sector. The estimates of smoking prevalence reported in Table 3.1 and Table 7A.1 are very similar, with any difference generally small and within the 95% confidence intervals for age and sex sample sizes (refer to Appendix 4).

Table 3.2 shows the smoking behaviours of current smokers by age group (12- to 15-year-olds and 16- and 17-year-olds) and sex.

Around 30% of 12- to 17-year-old current smokers had smoked on only one of the preceding seven days.

Around half of all current smokers had smoked on three or more of the preceding seven days.

Around 23% of all current smokers had smoked daily.

Age group was not significantly associated with smoking on only one day or smoking on three or more days but was associated with smoking daily ($p<0.01$). While the smoking behaviours of 12- to 15-year-old current smokers did not differ between males and females, for 16- and 17-year-old current smokers, more females than males smoked on only one day ($p<0.01$) while more males than females smoked on three or more days ($p<0.01$). When data were combined for 12- to 17-year-old current smokers, significantly more males than females smoked on three or more days ($p<0.01$) and significantly fewer females than males, smoked daily ($p<0.01$).

Table 3.2: Smoking behaviours of students who smoked in the week before the survey (current smokers), by age group and sex, Australia, 2014

	12 to 15 years			16 to 17 years			12 to 17 years		
Smoking behaviour	Males (n=230) %	Females (n=247) %	Total (n=477) %	Males (n=396) %	Females (n=299) %	Total (n=695) %	Males (n=626) %	Females (n=546) %	Total (n=1172) %
Smoked on one day	31.2	30.5	30.8	26.4	35.2	30.2	28.2	33.1	30.5
Smoked on 3+ days	54.6	52.2	53.4	60.5	49.3	55.6	58.3	50.6	54.7
Daily smokers	21.8	15.5	18.5	28.9	22.5	26.1	26.3	19.3	23.0
Average number of cigarettes smoked in past seven days^	Mean (se)Ŧ 17.5 (1.7)	Mean (se)Ŧ 12.8 (1.4)	Mean (se)Ŧ 15.0 (1.1)	Mean (se)Ŧ 22.2(1.5)	Mean (se)Ŧ 17.2 (1.3)	Mean (se)Ŧ 19.8(1.0)	Mean (se)Ŧ 20.4 (1.1)	Mean (se)Ŧ 15.4 (0.9)	Mean (se)Ŧ 17.8(0.7)

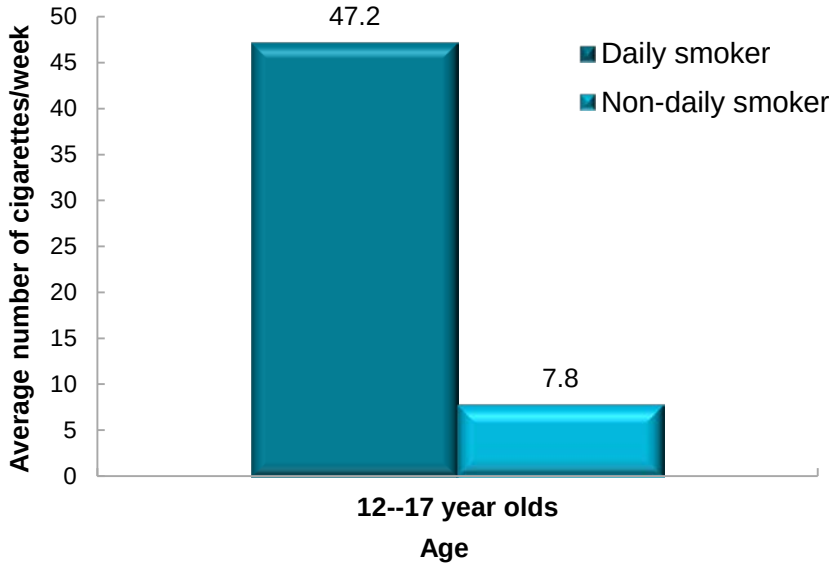
Ŧ (se) Standard error.

^ Students indicating they had smoked more than 40 cigarettes on any of the preceding 7 days excluded from analysis. Average number of cigarettes smoked in past seven days is based on unweighted data.

The average number of cigarettes consumed each week by current smokers was greater among 16- and 17-year-olds than 12- to 15-year-olds ($p<0.01$). Among 12- to 17-year-olds,

male current smokers smoked significantly more cigarettes per week than female current smokers ($p<0.01$).

Figure 3.1: Average number of cigarettes consumed per week among daily smokers and non-daily current smokers aged 12 to 17 years, Australia, 2014[#]



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

Non-daily smokers consumed substantially fewer cigarettes per week than daily smokers (Figure 3.1). For daily current smokers, the number of cigarettes consumed per week was not associated with age. Overall, daily smokers aged between 12 and 17 years smoked an average of 47 cigarettes a week.

3.2 Has the smoking behaviour of students changed over time?

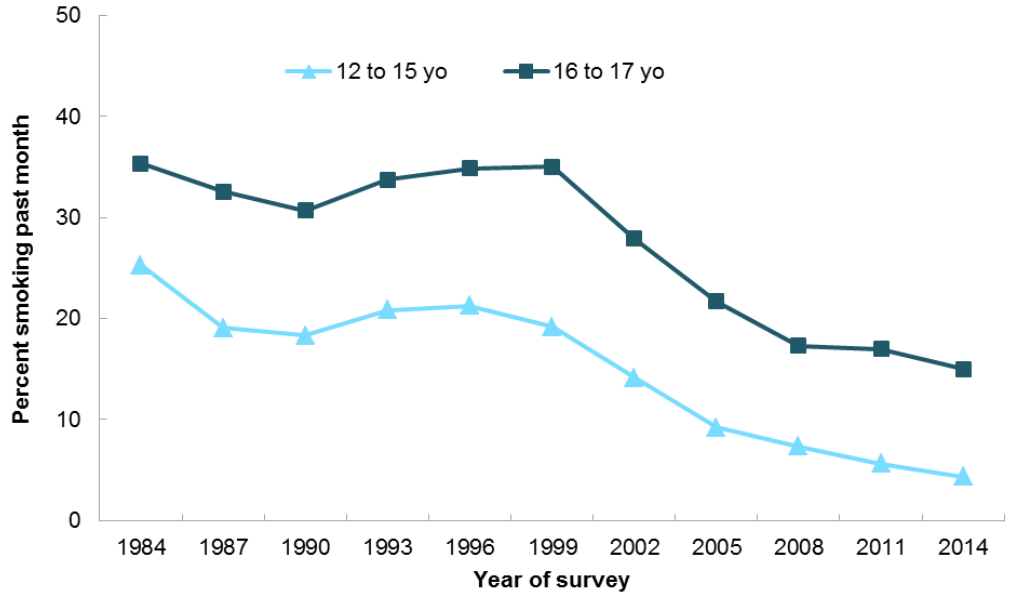
3.2.1 Changes in smoking prevalence

In this section changes in smoking prevalence for two age groups of students (12 to 15 years and 16 and 17 years) and all students are assessed. The key indicators of smoking involvement examined are: lifetime smoking, smoked more than 100 cigarettes in lifetime, smoking in the past month, past week (current smoking), on three or more days of that week (committed smoking) and daily smoking.

Long-term trends in selected smoking behaviours of younger and older Australian secondary students are shown in Figures 3.2 to 3.4. The proportions shown in the figures are not adjusted for age.

Among 12- to 15-year-olds, the proportion of students who had smoked in the past four weeks decreased between 1984 and 1990 and then started to rise again in the 1990s (Figure 3.2). Past-month smoking prevalence began to decline after 1996 and this decline has continued to 2014. The proportion of 12- to 15-year-old students who had smoked in the past four weeks in 2014 was lower than at any other point in this survey series.

Figure 3.2: Trends in proportion of students aged 12 to 15 years and 16 and 17 years who had smoked in the past four weeks, Australia, 1984-2014



Past-month smoking prevalence for 16- and 17-year-olds also declined in the late 1980s and rose again in the early 1990s (Figure 3.2). The proportion of 16- and 17-year-olds smoking in the past four weeks began to decrease after 1999 and this decline continued to 2008. There was no significant change in the proportion of 16- and 17-year-old students who had smoked in the past four weeks between 2008 and 2011. However, in 2014 past-month smoking prevalence was lower than in 2011.

Figure 3.3 shows long term trends in the proportion of 12- to 15-year-olds who had smoked in the previous seven days and who had smoked on at least three of the previous seven days. Similar to the trends found for past-month smoking, the proportion of 12- to 15-year-old current smokers declined in the late 1980s, increased in the early 1990s then started to decline again after 1996. The proportion of 12- to 15-year-old current smokers in 2014 was the lowest found of any survey year. A similar pattern of change is found for the proportion of younger students who were committed smokers.

Figure 3.3: Trends in the proportion of current (smoked in past seven days) and committed (smoked on 3 or more days of past seven) smokers among 12- to 15-year-old students, Australia, 1984-2014

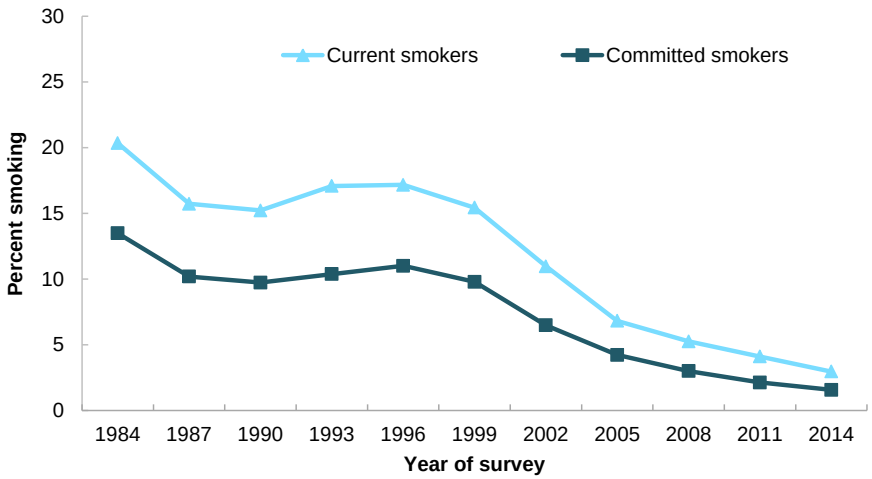


Figure 3.4: Trends in the proportion of current (smoked in past seven days) and committed (smoked on 3 or more days of past seven) smokers among 16- and 17-year-old students, Australia, 1984-2014

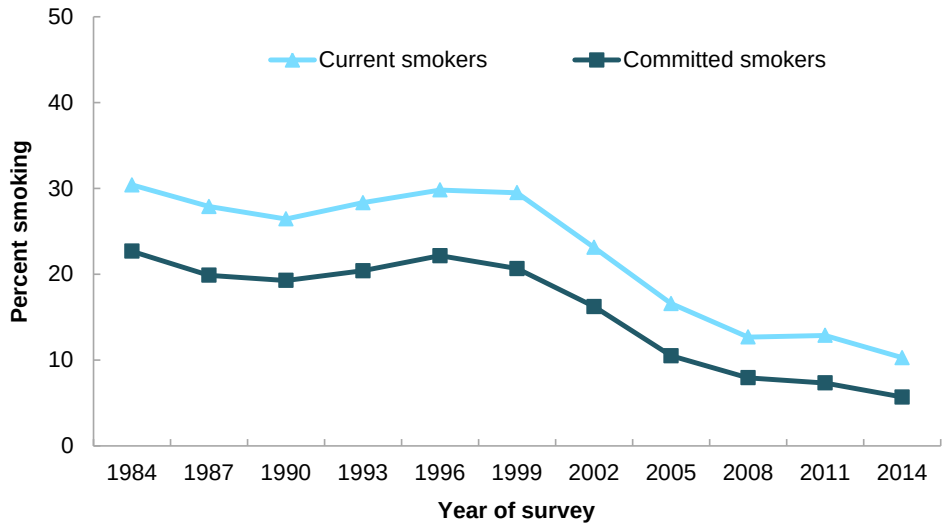


Figure 3.4 shows the results for 16- and 17-year-olds. Similar to the pattern of change for past-month smoking for this age group, decreases in the proportion of older students who were current smokers and committed smokers commenced after 1999.

The statistical significance of changes in smoking prevalence between 2008 and 2014 is considered in Table 3.3.

Table 3.3 shows the proportion of 12- to 15-year-olds, 16- and 17-year-olds and 12- to 17-year-olds who had ever smoked, smoked 100 or more cigarettes in their lifetime, smoked in the past month, smoked in the past seven days, smoked on three or more of the preceding seven days, and who were daily smokers, in 2008, 2011 and 2014 for males, females and for all students.

For 12- to 15-year-olds, the proportion of male, female and all students smoking in each of the recency periods (lifetime, past month, past seven days, on three days of past seven days and daily smoking) in 2014 was significantly lower than in 2008. The 2014 prevalence estimates for lifetime smoking, smoking more than 100 cigarettes, past month and past seven days smoking and smoking daily in the past seven days among all students were significantly lower than those found in 2011 for all 12- to 15-year-olds (Table 3.3).

The proportions of all 16- and 17-year-olds smoking in the different recency periods in 2014 were generally lower than the proportions found in 2008 and 2011 although few differences were statistically significant at the $p<0.01$ level. The proportion of all 16- and 17-year-olds smoking in their lifetime in 2014 was significantly lower than that found in 2008 and 2011. For smoking in the past seven days, only the decrease between 2011 and 2014 for all 16- and 17-year-olds was statistically significant. The significance of the changes in smoking prevalence for males and females separately in this age group was variable.

For both the 12- to 15-year-olds and the 16- and 17-year-olds, the proportion of daily smokers among current smokers in 2014 was not significantly different from levels found in 2008 or 2011.

When data were combined for all 12- to 17-year-old students, a general pattern of decreasing prevalence was found with 2014 prevalence estimates significantly lower than

those in 2008 and 2011. However, for 12- to 17-year-olds the proportion of current smokers who were daily smokers in 2014 was not statistically significantly different from the proportions found in 2008 or 2011.

A similar pattern of results was found when the analyses were re-run on data weighted by age and sex within year level within education sectors (refer to Appendix 7, Table 7A 2). These analyses confirmed the significant decrease in smoking prevalence for 12- to 15-year-olds and 12- to 17-year-olds between 2011 and 2014 and between 2008 and 2014. It also confirmed that there was generally no statistically significant change in smoking prevalence for 16- and 17-year-olds between 2011 and 2014.

Table 3.3: Percentage of students with different levels of tobacco use involvement in 2008, 2011 and 2014, by age group and sex, Australia

Recency period	12 to 15 years			16 to 17 years			12 to 17 years		
	2008 (%)	2011 (%)	2014 (%)	2008 (%)	2011 (%)	2014 (%)	2008 (%)	2011 (%)	2014 (%)
Lifetime									
Males	21.8**	17.9**	12.4	42.2**	39.5**	32.8	27.3**	24.1**	18.4
Females	20.5**	15.6**	12.6	44.1**	39.4	36.5	27.2**	22.6**	19.8
Total	21.2**	16.7**	12.5	43.2**	39.4**	34.7	27.3**	23.3**	19.1
Smoked at least 100 cigarettes in lifetime									
Males	2.3**	1.9	1.2	8.7	8.6	7.6	4.0**	3.8	3.1
Females	2.1**	1.6	1.2	7.4**	7.0	4.8	3.6**	3.2**	2.3
Total	2.2**	1.7**	1.2	8.1	7.8	6.2	3.8**	3.5**	2.7
Past month									
Males	6.6**	5.7**	3.9	17.5	17.7	15.5	9.5**	9.2**	7.3
Females	8.1**	5.5	4.8	17.1	16.3	14.4	10.7**	8.7	7.7
Total	7.3**	5.6**	4.3	17.3	17.0	15.0	10.1**	8.9**	7.5
Current smokers (smoked in past seven days)									
Males	4.8**	4.4**	2.8	12.8	13.4	11.6	6.9**	7.0**	5.4
Females	5.8**	3.8	3.2	12.5**	12.3**	8.9	7.7**	6.3**	4.9
Total	5.3**	4.1**	3.0	12.7	12.9**	10.3	7.3**	6.7**	5.1
Committed smokers (Smoked on 3+ days in past seven days)									
Males	2.8**	2.2	1.5	8.2	7.5	7.0	4.2**	3.7	3.1
Females	3.2**	2.1	1.6	7.7**	7.2**	4.4	4.5**	3.6**	2.5
Total	3.0**	2.1	1.6	7.9**	7.3	5.7	4.4**	3.6**	2.8

Recency period	12 to 15 years			16 to 17 years			12 to 17 years		
	2008 (%)	2011 (%)	2014 (%)	2008 (%)	2011 (%)	2014 (%)	2008 (%)	2011 (%)	2014 (%)
Smoked daily in past seven days									
Males	1.3**	1.0	0.6	4.0	3.9	3.3	2.0**	1.8	1.4
Females	1.2**	0.9**	0.5	3.5	3.4	2.0	1.9**	1.7**	0.9
Total	1.2**	1.0**	0.5	3.8	3.6	2.7	1.9**	1.8**	1.2
Daily smokers among current smokers									
Males	27.0	23.7	21.8	31.6	28.8	28.9	29.3	26.5	26.3
Females	21.0	24.5	15.5	28.3	27.8	22.5	24.4	26.4**	19.3
Total	23.8	24.1	18.5	29.9	28.3	26.1	26.7	26.5	23.0

*** Significantly different from 2014 at p <0.01.*

3.3 What brands of cigarettes do students smoke and how do they access them?

Table 3.4 shows the cigarette brands most commonly smoked by students who were current smokers. As students are specifically instructed to indicate only one brand of cigarettes, students indicating multiple brands were excluded from these analyses, excluding 22% of current smokers. Including students providing more than one brand, increased the percentages of different brands being smoked, but did not change the order of popularity for the brands listed in Table 3.4 (refer to Appendix 6 Table 6A 1 for proportion of current smokers using different brands of cigarettes when multiple responses are allowed).

Table 3.4: Usual cigarette brands smoked by current smokers[#†], by age group and sex, Australia, 2014

Brand	12 to 15 years			16 to 17 years			12 to 17 years		
	Males (n=123) %	Females (n=160 %	Total (n=283) %	Males (n=264) %	Females (n=217) %	Total (n=481) %	Males (n=387) %	Females (n=377) %	Total (n=764) %
Winfield	27.1	29.5	28.4	40.1	29.0	35.1	35.9	29.2	32.6
JPS	15.1	21.4	18.6	14.6	17.7	16.0	14.8	19.3	17.0
Peter Jackson	12.1	11.2	11.6	7.1	8.0	7.5	8.7	9.3	9.0
Longbeach	7.7	6.6	7.0	4.5	6.9	5.5	5.5	6.7	6.1
Marlboro	2.5	4.6	3.7	8.9	5.1	7.2	6.8	4.9	5.9
Bond St	1.6	5.0	3.5	6.1	5.5	5.8	4.7	5.3	5.0
Benson & Hedges	1.6	3.6	2.7	3.8	5.9	4.7	3.1	4.9	4.0
Horizon	8.4	2.3	5.0	0.7	3.7	2.1	3.2	3.1	3.2

Brand	12 to 15 years			16 to 17 years			12 to 17 years		
	Males (n=123) %	Females (n=160 %	Total (n=283) %	Males (n=264) %	Females (n=217) %	Total (n=481) %	Males (n=387) %	Females (n=377) %	Total (n=764) %
Holiday	0.4	3.9	2.4	1.3	5.7	3.3	1.0	4.9	2.9
Just Smokes	3.0	2.1	2.5	1.3	3.9	2.4	1.8	3.1	2.5
Alpine	0.3	3.4	2.0	0.0	1.1	0.5	0.1	2.1	1.1
Dunhill	1.7	0.0	0.7	0.5	0.8	0.6	0.9	0.5	0.7

 # 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 add to 100 as only the most commonly mentioned brands are listed.

In 2014, for current smokers providing a single cigarette brand, Winfield (33%), was the most common cigarette brand smoked followed by JPS (17%), then Peter Jackson (9%). Longbeach, Marlboro and Bond St were each smoked by between five and six per cent of current smokers.

Table 3.5 shows the size of the pack from which current smokers commonly obtained their cigarettes. The nine per cent of current smokers who provided more than one response to this question were excluded from these analyses.

Current smokers most commonly obtained their cigarettes from packs of 25 (35%), followed by packs of 20 (33%) and then packs of 30 (11%). Around two per cent of current smokers indicated that they obtained their cigarettes from packs that contained 'bonus' cigarettes (packs of 22 or 26). In 2014, five per cent of all current smokers indicated that they smoked roll-your-own cigarettes through a free text response.

Significantly more 16- and 17-year-old current smokers (38%) obtained their cigarettes from packs of 25 than did 12- to 15-year-old current smokers (28%) ($p<0.01$). The slight difference in the proportion of 12- to 15-year-old current smokers (36%) and 16- and 17-year-old current smokers (31%) obtaining cigarettes from packs of 20 was not statistically significant.

Table 3.5: Percentage of current smokers# obtaining their last cigarette from different pack sizes†, by age group and sex, Australia, 2014

Pack size	12 to 15 years			16 to 17 years			12 to 17 years		
	Males (n=155) %	Females (n=194) %	Total (n=349) %	Males (n=315) %	Females (n=255) %	Total (n=570) %	Males (n=470) %	Females (n=449) %	Total (n=919) %
20	37.8	34.5	36.0	30.7	31.2	30.9	33.0	32.6	32.8
25	29.5	27.6	28.4	36.1	40.7	38.2	33.9	35.0	34.5
30	7.8	12.6	10.5	11.5	9.3	10.5	10.3	10.7	10.5
35	3.7	2.0	2.7	1.1	0.8	0.9	1.9	1.3	1.6
40	7.6	11.7	9.9	5.7	10.4	7.8	6.4	11.0	8.6
50	5.4	8.4	7.1	3.5	2.6	3.1	4.1	5.1	4.6
22	1.8	1.2	1.4	1.8	2.0	1.9	1.8	1.6	1.7
26	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.2

Pack size	12 to 15 years			16 to 17 years			12 to 17 years		
	Males (n=155) %	Females (n=194) %	Total (n=349) %	Males (n=315) %	Females (n=255) %	Total (n=570) %	Males (n=470) %	Females (n=449) %	Total (n=919) %
Roll your own	6.5	2.0	4.0	9.1	2.8	6.3	8.3	2.4	5.4

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

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

Table 3.6 and 3.7 show how current smokers accessed their last cigarette in 2014.

Table 3.6: Percentage of current smokers# who bought or did not buy their last cigarette†, by age group and sex, Australia, 2014

	12 to 15 years			16 to 17 years			12 to 17 years		
	Males (n=172) %	Females (n=204) %	Total (n=376) %	Males (n=328) %	Females (n=274) %	Total (n=602) %	Males (n=500) %	Females (n=478) %	Total (n=978) %
Did not buy cigarettes	90.2	93.7	92.1	80.3	84.9	82.4	83.7	88.7	86.1
Bought cigarettes	9.8	6.3	7.9	19.7	15.1	17.6	16.3	11.3	13. 9

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

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

Table 3.7: Percentage of current smokers# obtaining their last cigarette from different sources†, by age group and sex, Australia, 2014

	12 to 15 years			16 to 17 years			12 to 17 years		
	Males (n=172) %	Females (n=204) %	Total (n=376) %	Males (n=328) %	Females (n=274) %	Total (n=602) %	Males (n=500) %	Females (n=478) %	Total (n=978) %
Did not buy:									
Parents	10.3	4.2	7.0	4.4	5.0	4.7	6.4	4.7	5.6
Siblings	3.0	3.1	3.1	3.0	2.2	2.6	3.0	2.6	2.8
Took from home	4.2	14.8	9.9	4.3	2.6	3.5	4.3	7.8	6.0
Friends	56.1	52.1	53.9	45.8	48.6	47.1	49.3	50.1	49.7
Someone bought it	11.4	18.5	15.2	19.9	26.1	22.7	16.9	22.8	19.8
Bought:									
Convenience store	1.5	2.1	1.8	2.5	4.5	3.4	2.1	3.5	2.8

	12 to 15 years			16 to 17 years			12 to 17 years		
	Males (n=172) %	Females (n=204) %	Total (n=376) %	Males (n=328) %	Females (n=274) %	Total (n=602) %	Males (n=500) %	Females (n=478) %	Total (n=978) %
Milk bar	1.3	0.6	1.3	3.7	4.0	3.8	2.9	2.5	2.7
Tobacconist/ tobacco shop	0.9	1.6	1.3	4.6	0.7	2.8	3.3	1.1	2.2
Newsagency	1.5	0.7	1.1	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.0	1.6	1.8
Supermarket	1.3	0.9	1.1	1.8	2.4	2.1	1.6	1.8	1.7
Petrol station	0.9	0.1	0.4	2.1	0.8	1.5	1.7	0.5	1.1

 # 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.

Most current smokers did not buy their last cigarette themselves with only 14% of all current smokers reporting that they bought their last cigarette (Table 3.6). Buying cigarettes was more common for 16- and 17-year-old current smokers (18%) than for 12- to 15-year-old current smokers (8%) ($p<0.01$).

The two most common ways adolescents obtained their cigarettes were through friends (50% of all current smokers) or by getting someone else to buy cigarettes for them (20% of all current smokers) (Table 3.7).

Around six per cent of current smokers reported purchasing their last cigarette from a convenience store (3%) or a milk bar (3%).

3.4 How easy do students think it is to purchase cigarettes?

In 2014, all students were asked to indicate their perceptions regarding how easy it would be for them to purchase cigarettes from local shops themselves and by getting someone else to buy cigarettes for them.

Table 3.8: Percentage of students believing it would be easy or very easy for them to purchase cigarettes themselves or by getting someone else to buy cigarettes for them, by age and sex, Australia, 2014

	Age (years)						
	12 (%)	13 (%)	14 (%)	15 (%)	16 (%)	17 (%)	12-17 (%)
Easy/very easy to buy cigarettes themselves							
Males	12.3	13.4	16.3	19.5	22.7	30.5	18.6
Females	14.0	12.2	14.0	14.2	15.8	28.9	16.0
Total	13.1	12.8	15.2	16.9	19.3	29.7	17.3
Easy/very easy to get others to buy cigarettes							
Males	30.1	33.0	39.9	49.0	54.9	61.5	44.0
Females	30.4	32.5	42.4	49.4	57.9	65.4	45.7
Total	30.2	32.8	41.1	49.2	56.4	63.5	44.8

Table 3.8 shows that less than 20% of all students (17%) thought it would be easy or very easy for them to purchase cigarettes themselves. For males, females and for all students, the proportion believing this increased with age ($p<0.01$) and peaked among 17-year-olds at around 30%.

A greater proportion of students thought it would be easy or very easy to get someone else to buy cigarettes for them (45%) and this belief increased with age for males ($p<0.01$), females ($p<0.01$) and all students ($p<0.01$). Among all students the proportion believing it would be easy or very easy to get someone to buy cigarettes for them increased from 30% at 12 years to 64% at 17 years.

Table 3.9 presents the proportion of students who had smoked in the past four weeks who believed it would be easy or very easy for them to purchase cigarettes themselves or to get others to buy cigarettes for them and compares these beliefs to those of students who had not smoked in the past four weeks.

Table 3.9: Percentage of students who had smoked in the past four weeks (past-month smokers) and those who hadn't smoked in this time period believing it would be easy or very easy for them to purchase cigarettes themselves or by getting someone else to buy cigarettes for them, by age group and sex, Australia, 2014

	Age group		
	12 to 15 years (%)	16 to 17 years (%)	12 to 17 years (%)
Past-month smokers			
Easy/very easy to buy cigarettes themselves			
Males	32.5	43.4	39.3
Females	22.4	35.6	29.9
Total	27.0	39.6	34.5
Easy/very easy to get others to buy cigarettes			
Males	63.8	74.3	70.3
Females	74.4	82.9	79.3
Total	69.6	78.5	74.9
Not smoked in past four weeks			
Easy/very easy to buy cigarettes themselves			
Males	14.5	23.0	16.8
Females	13.1	19.2	14.8
Total	13.8	21.1	15.9
Easy/very easy to get others to buy cigarettes			
Males	36.9	54.9	41.8
Females	37.1	57.4	42.9
Total	37.0	56.2	42.3

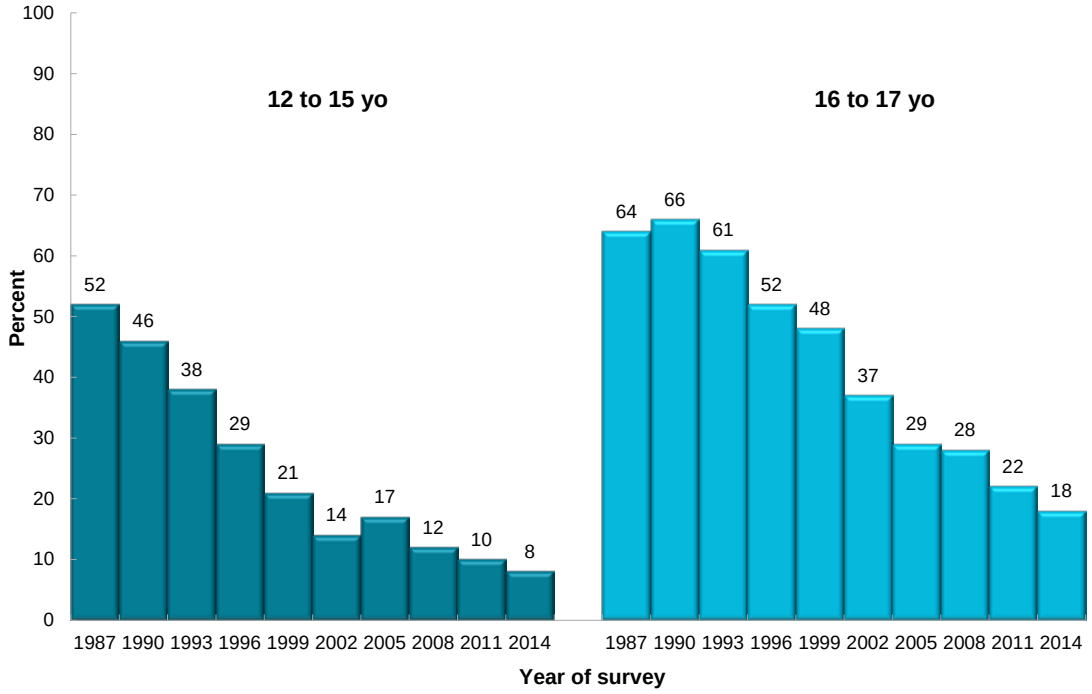
More past-month smokers (35%) thought it would be easy for them to buy cigarettes themselves than students who had not smoked in this time period (16%) ($p<0.01$). Similarly

more past-month smokers (75%) than those who had not smoked in this time period (42%) thought it would be easy for them to get someone else to buy cigarettes for them (p<0.01).

3.5 Changes in students' ability to purchase cigarettes

Figure 3.5 shows the proportion of current smokers buying their cigarettes in each survey year since 1987 for those aged 12 to 15 years, and 16 and 17 years.

Figure 3.5: Proportion of current smokers[#] aged 12–15 years (left) and 16–17 years (right) buying cigarettes for themselves in each survey year, Australia, 1987-2014



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

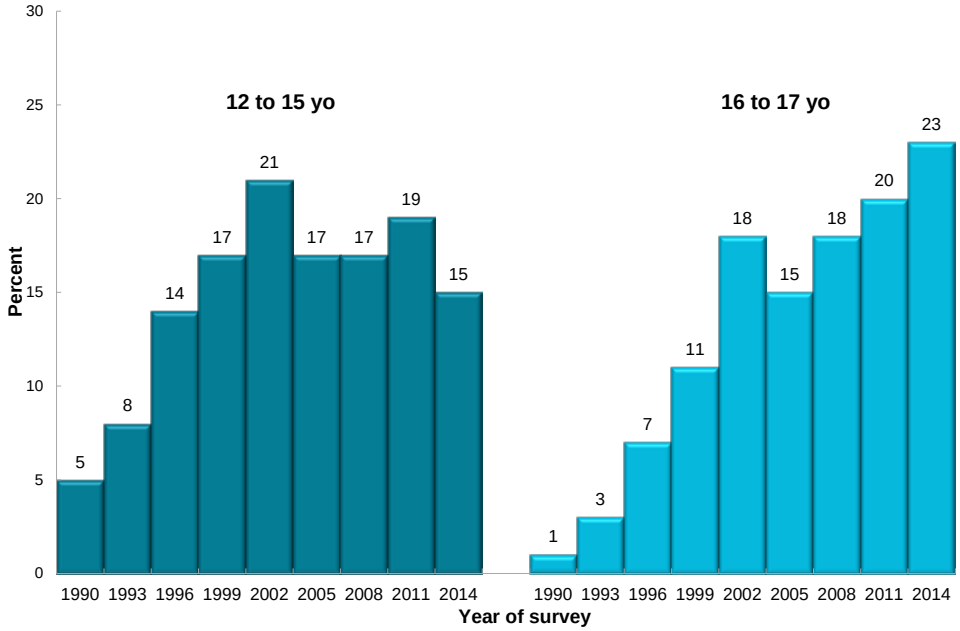
There has been a large decrease over time in the proportion of current smokers purchasing their cigarettes.

The proportion of current smokers aged 12 to 15 years buying their cigarettes decreased between 1987 and 2002, increased slightly between 2002 and 2005 and then decreased between 2005 and 2014. The proportion of 12- to 15-year-old current smokers buying their last cigarette in 2014 was not significantly different from the proportions found in 2011 and 2008.

Among older current smokers, the proportion buying their own cigarettes, started to decrease after 1990. The proportion of older current smokers buying their last cigarette in 2014 was significantly lower than the proportion found in 2008 (p<0.01) but was not different from the 2011 proportion.

Between 1990 and 2002 there was an increase in the proportion of current smokers saying they obtained their cigarettes by getting someone else to buy them (Figure 3.6). After 2002, the proportion of younger current smokers getting someone else to buy cigarettes for them fluctuated over time and the proportion found in 2014 was not significantly different from the proportions found in 2011 or 2008. For 16- and 17-year-old current smokers while the proportion getting someone else to buy their cigarettes was highest in 2014, the 2014 proportion was not significantly different from that found in 2011 or 2008.

Figure 3.6: Proportion of current smokers[#] aged 12–15 years (left) and 16–17 years (right) getting someone else to buy cigarettes for them in each survey year, Australia, 1990-2014



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

3.6 Use of Menthol hybrid/dual flavoured cigarettes by past month smokers

Emerging some time before 2011, menthol hybrid/dual flavoured cigarettes are regular cigarettes that can be turned into a menthol cigarette by the user squeezing the cigarette filter to burst a capsule containing menthol liquid. The bursting of this capsule gives the cigarette a menthol flavour.

Table 3.10: Percentage of all students, never smokers and past-month smokers ever using menthol hybrid/dual flavoured cigarettes, by age group and sex, Australia, 2014

	Age group		
	12 to 15 years (%)	16 to 17 years (%)	12 to 17 years (%)
All students			
Males	4.3	14.5	7.3
Females	4.5	12.3	6.9
Total	4.4	13.4	7.1
Never smokers			
Males	1.1	0.6	1.0
Females	0.9	0.7	0.9
Total	1.0	0.7	0.9
Smoked in past four weeks			
Males	47.2	60.6	55.8
Females	44.8	50.2	47.9
Total	45.9	55.6	51.7

Table 3.10 presents the percentage of all students, never smokers and past-month smokers ever using menthol hybrid/dual flavoured cigarettes. Among all students, use of menthol hybrid/dual flavoured cigarettes increased with age ($p<0.01$). For older students, more males (15%) than females (12%) had used these types of cigarettes at some point in their lifetime ($p<0.01$). Sex was not associated with ever use among the 12-to 15-year-olds.

Table 3.11 shows the proportion of past-month smokers reporting use of menthol hybrid/dual flavoured cigarettes. Across all ages, 48% of past-month smokers had never used these types of cigarettes. Never use of menthol hybrid/dual flavour cigarettes was more common for past-month smokers aged 12- to 15-year-olds than 16- and 17-year-olds ($p<0.01$). For older students and for all students, more females than males had never used these types of cigarettes (all $p<0.01$). Twenty-three per cent of all students who had used menthol hybrid/dual flavoured cigarettes had used them six or more times.

Table 3.11: Frequency of use of menthol hybrid/dual flavoured cigarettes for past-month smokers, by age group and sex, Australia, 2014

	Age group		
	12 to 15 years (%)	16 to 17 years (%)	12 to 17 years (%)
Past-month smokers			
Never used			
Males	52.8	39.4	44.2
Females	55.2	49.8	52.1
Total	54.1	44.4	48.3
Used once			
Males	13.7	10.7	11.8
Females	15.2	10.1	12.3
Total	14.6	10.4	12.1
Used 2- 5 times			
Males	14.4	18.4	17.0
Females	15.0	19.2	17.4
Total	14.7	18.8	17.2
Used 6 or more times			
Males	19.1	31.5	27.0
Females	14.6	20.9	18.1
Total	16.6	26.4	22.5

3.7 Use of Roll-your-own cigarettes by past month smokers

Roll-your-own cigarettes refer to cigarettes that are made by an individual from loose fine-cut tobacco.

The proportion of past-month smokers using roll-your-own cigarettes at different frequencies is shown in Table 3.12. Most past-month smokers indicated that they had used roll-your-own tobacco at some time in their life with only 32% of 12- to 17-year-old past-

month smokers never having used roll-your-own tobacco. While 18% of past-month smokers had only used roll-your-own tobacco once or twice, 11% had used it three to five times, and 24% had used it 20 or more times in their lifetime. Frequency of roll-your-own tobacco use was associated with sex, with smoking roll-your-own cigarettes more common for males than females, overall ($p<0.01$), and for younger ($p<0.01$) and older ($p<0.01$) past-month smokers.

Table 3.12: Frequency of use of roll-your-own tobacco for past-month cigarette smokers, by age group and sex, Australia, 2014

	Age group		
	12 to 15 years (%)	16 to 17 years (%)	12 to 17 years (%)
Past-month smokers			
Never used			
Males	35.7	24.3	28.5
Females	36.2	34.7	35.3
Total	36.0	29.4	32.0
Once or twice			
Males	15.3	14.7	14.9
Females	22.2	18.5	20.1
Total	19.2	16.6	17.6
3-5 times			
Males	8.3	10.7	9.8
Females	12.8	12.0	12.4
Total	10.8	11.3	11.1
6-9 times			
Males	6.2	6.2	6.2
Females	9.6	8.5	9.0
Total	8.1	7.3	7.7
10-19 times			
Males	7.8	9.2	8.7
Females	4.9	8.6	7.0
Total	6.2	8.9	7.8
20+ times			
Males	26.7	34.9	31.8
Females	14.3	17.7	16.2
Total	19.7	26.5	23.8

3.8 Students' perceptions of their smoking behaviours and intentions to smoke in next 12 months

Students were asked to choose the label that described their smoking behaviours from the following: non-smoker, ex-smoker, occasional smoker, light smoker or heavy smoker. The labels that male and female students chose to describe their smoking behaviours are presented in Table 3.13, by age.

Table 3.13: Self-description of smoking status for all students surveyed, by age and sex, Australia, 2014

	Age (years)						
	12 (%)	13 (%)	14 (%)	15 (%)	16 (%)	17 (%)	12-17 (%)
Heavy smoker							
Male	0.5	0.4	0.9	1.4	2.3	2.5	1.3
Females	0.2	0.4	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.4	0.9
Total	0.4	0.4	1.1	1.2	1.8	1.9	1.1
Light smoker							
Males	0.3	0.7	1.0	1.5	2.9	5.3	1.8
Females	0.8	0.7	1.4	2.3	2.1	3.6	1.8
Total	0.6	0.7	1.1	1.9	2.5	4.5	1.8
Occasional smoker							
Males	0.7	1.3	2.0	4.3	7.5	8.4	3.8
Females	0.1	1.5	3.1	4.6	8.8	12.3	4.7
Total	0.4	1.4	2.6	4.5	8.2	10.4	4.3
Ex-smoker							
Males	1.3	1.5	2.1	1.9	2.8	2.2	1.9
Females	1.0	0.9	1.5	2.7	2.1	2.6	1.8
Total	1.2	1.2	1.8	2.3	2.5	2.4	1.9
Non-smoker							
Males	97.1	96.1	94.0	90.9	84.5	81.6	91.2
Females	97.9	96.4	92.9	89.3	85.7	80.1	90.8
Total	97.5	96.2	93.4	90.1	85.1	80.8	91.0

At each age, most students saw themselves as non-smokers with around 90% of all students choosing this label to describe themselves in relation to smoking.

Four per cent of all students surveyed described themselves as occasional smokers, and around two per cent referred to themselves as light smokers.

Table 3.14: Percentage of students smoking in each time period and average number of cigarettes smoked per week by self-described smoking status, Australia, 2014

	Self-description of smoking				
	Heavy smoker (n=243) %	Light smoker (n=402) %	Occasional smoker (n=961) %	Ex- smoker (n=435) %	Non-smoker (n=20647) %
Smoked 100+ cigarettes	83.2	48.4	13.4	13.9	0.1
Smoked in past 12 months	93.6	97.1	96.8	69.4	6.2
Smoked in past 4 weeks	92.2	90.1	69.9	19.8	1.6
Smoked in past 7 days	88.9	81.5	46.9	11.7	0.6
Smoked on 3 or more of past 7 days	82.9	59.9	15.8	2.5	0.1
Among current smokers# – average number of cigarettes smoked/week†	Mean (se) 48.2 (1.3)	Mean (se) 20.3 (1.1)	Mean (se) 6.6 (0.9)	Mean (se) 7.6 (3.0)	Mean (se) 4.8 (1.7)

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

† 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.

Table 3.14 examines the relationship between the labels students use to describe their smoking status and actual smoking behaviours. There is a strong relationship between smoking involvement and self-described smoking status.

Nearly all students who described themselves as some sort of smoker (heavy, light or occasional) had smoked in the previous 12 months. Around 90% of heavy and light smokers had smoked in the past four weeks, with over 85% of students describing their smoking as heavy also smoking in the seven days prior to the survey.

Of occasional smokers, a greater proportion had smoked in the four weeks before the survey (70%) than in the seven days prior to the survey (47%), reflecting the lack of regularity in their smoking.

Twelve per cent of ex-smokers indicated that they had smoked on one of the seven days prior to the survey. This might reflect the recency of their decision to no longer smoke, or it might reflect that some students who have stopped smoking regularly (and hence the ex-smoker label) still have the occasional cigarette.

All students were asked: 'Do you think you will be smoking this time next year?', and chose a response from those listed below in Table 3.15.

Table 3.15: Students' intention to smoke in the next 12 months, by age and sex, Australia, 2014[#]

	Age (years)						
	12 (%)	13 (%)	14 (%)	15 (%)	16 (%)	17 (%)	12-17 (%)
Certain not to smoke							
Males	88.5	86.6	81.8	76.9	71.1	68.9	79.5
Females	88.9	84.9	78.5	71.2	68.9	66.4	76.9
Total	88.7	85.8	80.2	74.1	70.1	67.6	78.3

	Age (years)						
	12 (%)	13 (%)	14 (%)	15 (%)	16 (%)	17 (%)	12-17 (%)
Unlikely/very unlikely to smoke							
Males	8.7	9.9	13.4	16.6	17.2	16.8	13.6
Females	8.4	10.1	14.2	18.6	18.7	18.0	14.5
Total	8.6	10.0	13.8	17.6	17.9	17.4	14.1
Undecided							
Males	1.8	2.0	2.9	3.6	6.2	7.9	3.9
Females	2.0	3.7	4.6	6.6	7.8	9.9	5.6
Total	1.9	2.8	3.7	5.1	7.0	8.9	4.7
Likely/very likely to smoke							
Males	0.6	1.0	1.1	1.9	3.5	5.1	2.0
Females	0.5	0.9	2.1	2.6	4.0	4.7	2.4
Total	0.5	1.0	1.5	2.3	3.8	4.9	2.2
Certain to smoke							
Males	0.4	0.5	0.8	0.9	2.0	1.3	0.9
Females	0.2	0.3	0.6	1.0	0.5	1.1	0.6
Total	0.3	0.4	0.7	0.9	1.2	1.2	0.8

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

The majority of students in each age and sex group indicated that they were 'certain not to smoke' in the next 12 months with 78% of all students indicating this response category.

With increasing age there was a decline in students' resolve to not smoke that was similar for males and females.

Five per cent of all students indicated they were undecided about smoking in the next 12 months. Only around two per cent of all students thought it at least likely they would be smoking in the next 12 months, with less than one per cent of all students certain they would be smoking.

Table 3.16 shows smoking intentions of students who had smoked in the previous 12 months, by age.

Table 3.16: Intention to smoke in the next 12 months among students who had smoked in the previous 12 months, by age, Australia, 2014

	Age (years)						
	12 (n=108) %	13 (n=214) %	14 (n=388) %	15 (n=639) %	16 (n=888) %	17 (n=898) %	12-17 (n=3135) %
Smoked in the past 12 months							
Certain not to smoke	30.4	26.9	24.8	21.3	20.7	21.5	22.3
Unlikely/very unlikely to smoke	24.1	26.1	30.1	36.7	35.2	32.2	33.0

	Age (years)						
	12 (n=108) %	13 (n=214) %	14 (n=388) %	15 (n=639) %	16 (n=888) %	17 (n=898) %	12-17 (n=3135) %
Undecided	24.9	26.9	25.1	23.4	24.2	27.1	25.2
Likely/very likely	17.5	14.6	14.5	13.4	15.5	15.3	14.9
Certain to smoke	3.0	5.5	5.5	5.2	4.4	3.9	4.6

Around 22% of students who had smoked in the previous 12 months were certain they would not smoke in the next 12 months, with 33% thinking it was very unlikely or unlikely that they would smoke in this time period.

Five per cent of students who had smoked in the past 12 months were certain they would be smoking in 12 months' time, and 15% thought it was likely or very likely.

4 Use of Shisha/Waterpipe Tobacco, Cigars/Cigarillos and Electronic Cigarette Products among Australian Secondary Students

The 2014 ASSAD survey asked students, for the first time, about their use of several different types of smoking related devices (e.g. electronic cigarettes and shisha/waterpipe tobacco). This section details students' responses to these questions.

4.1 Use of shisha/waterpipe tobacco

In 2014, all students were asked 'how many times, if ever, have you used shisha tobacco or hookah or waterpipe' and could indicate 'never', 'once or twice', '3 to 5 times', '6 to 9 times', '10 to 19 times', '20 to 39 times' or '40 or more times'. Often shisha tobacco smoked through waterpipes or hookahs is smoked in a social setting with several people inhaling the shisha tobacco smoke from the one waterpipe/hookah.

Table 4.1 shows that 90% of all students indicated they had never used shisha/waterpipe tobacco. Use of shisha/waterpipe tobacco was related to age for males ($p<0.01$), females ($p<0.01$) and all students ($p<0.01$) with around 16% of 16-year-olds and 19% of 17-year-old students indicating they had used shisha/waterpipe tobacco.

Of the 12- to 14 year-olds who had used shisha/waterpipe tobacco, similar proportions had used it only once or twice as had used it three or more times. However among 15- to 17-year-old students, a slightly greater proportion had used it at least three times in their life than once or twice. For example while seven per cent of all 17-year-olds had used shisha/waterpipe tobacco only once or twice, around 12% had used it three or more times.

Table 4.1: Percentage of all students ever using shisha/waterpipe tobacco and frequency of use, by age and sex, Australia, 2014

	Age (years)						
	12 (%)	13 (%)	14 (%)	15 (%)	16 (%)	17 (%)	12-17 (%)
Never used							
Males	97.0	94.7	91.1	86.8	80.2	77.8	88.5
Females	97.7	95.7	92.5	90.4	87.2	84.4	91.6
Total	97.3	95.2	91.8	88.5	83.7	81.1	90.0
Once or twice							
Males	1.1	2.0	3.8	6.0	6.5	6.9	4.2
Females	1.3	2.1	4.1	4.5	6.3	7.8	4.2
Total	1.2	2.1	4.0	5.2	6.4	7.4	4.2
Three or more times							
Males	2.0	3.2	5.1	7.3	13.3	15.3	7.3
Females	1.0	2.1	3.4	5.2	6.5	7.8	4.2

	Age (years)						
	12 (%)	13 (%)	14 (%)	15 (%)	16 (%)	17 (%)	12-17 (%)
Total	1.5	2.7	4.2	6.2	9.9	11.5	5.7

4.2 Use of cigars/cigarillos

In 2014, all students were asked 'how many times if ever have you smoked or used cigars/cigarillos' and could indicate 'never', 'once or twice', '3 to 5 times', '6 to 9 times', '10 to 19 times', '20 to 39 times' or '40 or more times'. The proportion of students in each age and sex group indicating they had never used cigars/cigarillos, had used them once or twice, or had used them at least three times in their life are shown in Table 4.2.

The vast majority of students (95%) had never used cigars/cigarillos. Use became more common with increasing age with nine per cent of 16-year-olds and 13% of 17-year-olds indicating they had used cigars/cigarillos at least once in their life. Of all 16- and 17-year-olds, reported lifetime use of cigars/cigarillos was more common among males than females (Table 4.2). Of all students around three per cent had used cigars/cigarillos only once or twice with two per cent using them three or more times in their life.

Table 4.2: Percentage of students ever smoking cigars/cigarillos and frequency of use, by age and sex, Australia, 2014

	Age (years)						
	12 (%)	13 (%)	14 (%)	15 (%)	16 (%)	17 (%)	12-17(%)
Never used							
Males	98.5	97.8	96.3	94.4	86.9	81.8	93.2
Females	99.0	98.4	97.3	95.7	94.8	92.0	96.4
Total	98.8	98.1	96.8	95.0	90.8	87.0	94.8
Once or twice							
Males	0.8	1.3	2.2	3.6	6.4	8.9	3.6
Females	0.6	0.9	1.6	2.7	3.8	5.6	2.4
Total	0.7	1.1	1.9	3.1	5.1	7.2	3.0
Three or more times							
Males	0.7	0.9	1.4	2.0	6.7	9.3	3.2
Females	0.4	0.7	1.1	1.7	1.4	2.3	1.2
Total	0.5	0.8	1.2	1.8	4.1	5.8	2.2

4.3 Use of electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes)

Electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) are battery-powered vapourising devices that when heated, deliver an aerosol of nicotine, flavour, and other chemicals that is inhaled in the same manner as smoking a conventional cigarette. It is illegal in Australia for commercial retail outlets to sell nicotine e-cigarettes. Regulation of the sale of non-nicotine e-cigarettes varies across Australian state and territory jurisdictions. While nicotine e-cigarettes or the nicotine vial refills may be purchased online for personal use, throughout Australia it is illegal to do this without a medical prescription for nicotine.

In the 2014 ASSAD survey, adolescents were asked a series of questions regarding their use of electronic cigarettes. Adolescents were asked if they had ever used an electronic cigarette (yes, no), with those indicating they had used these devices asked how recently they had last used an electronic cigarette (response within the last four weeks, within the past 12 months, more than 12 months) and also whether the device they last used contained nicotine (yes, no, don't know).

The proportion of male and female students in each age ever using an electronic cigarette is shown in Table 4.3. Across all 12- to 17-year-old students, around 13% indicated they had ever used an electronic cigarette. Use of electronic cigarettes increased with age ($p<0.01$) from five per cent of 12-year-olds to 22% of 17-year-olds. At each age, significantly more males than females indicated they had ever used an electronic cigarette.

Recency of use of electronic cigarettes is also shown for all students in Table 4.3. Of all students only three per cent indicated they had used an electronic cigarette in the previous four weeks. Recent use of an electronic cigarette was more likely among older than younger students with five per cent of all 17-year-old students indicating they had used an electronic cigarette during this time period compared to two per cent of 12-year-olds.

Of students indicating they had ever used an electronic cigarettes (n=2847), 49% indicated that their device did not contain nicotine, with 39% reporting that they did not know whether it contained nicotine or not.

Table 4.3: Percentage of students ever using an electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) and frequency of use, by age and sex, Australia, 2014

	Age (years)						
	12 (%)	13 (%)	14 (%)	15 (%)	16 (%)	17 (%)	12-17 (%)
Never used							
Males	93.5	91.2	87.0	80.1	76.3	74.2	84.1
Females	96.0	93.5	90.3	89.4	84.7	81.2	89.5
Total	94.7	92.3	88.6	84.7	80.5	77.7	86.8
Ever used							
Males	6.5	8.8	13.0	19.9	23.7	25.8	15.9
Female	4.0	6.5	9.7	10.6	15.3	18.8	10.5
Total	5.3	7.7	11.4	15.3	19.5	22.3	13.2
Used >1 month to <12 months ago							
Males	1.8	4.0	5.7	10.6	12.9	13.9	7.9
Females	1.7	3.3	5.5	6.5	8.7	11.5	6.0
Total	1.8	3.6	5.6	8.6	10.8	12.7	7.0
Used in previous four weeks							
Males	2.1	2.7	3.6	5.3	5.9	7.7	4.4
Females	0.9	1.4	2.4	2.4	3.2	2.8	2.2
Total	1.5	2.1	3.0	3.9	4.6	5.3	3.3

5 Alcohol use among Australian Secondary Students

5.1 How many Australian secondary school students were involved with drinking alcohol in 2014?

Understanding the prevalence of alcohol consumption among Australian secondary students in 2014 allows an assessment of the extent to which alcohol consumption has permeated the current adolescent culture.

Table 5.1 shows the proportion of students in each age and sex group who reported use of alcohol in different recency periods. As the current NHMRC alcohol use guidelines recommend that people under the age of 18 years abstain from alcohol use, the proportions shown in Table 5.1 reflect the proportion of students not adhering to this guideline.

Table 5.1: Lifetime experience and current use of alcohol, by age and sex, Australia, 2014[#]

	Age (years)						
	12 (%)	13 (%)	14 (%)	15 (%)	16 (%)	17 (%)	12-17 (%)
Never used							
Males	50.1	40.9	33.2	29.2	17.8	14.3	31.9
Females	55.8	46.1	34.3	23.6	15.4	12.0	32.1
Total	52.9	43.4	33.8	26.4	16.6	13.1	32.0
Used in past year							
Males	22.3	28.9	39.4	49.5	66.7	75.3	45.4
Females	16.1	25.0	37.8	53.8	67.6	77.3	44.8
Total	19.3	27.0	38.6	51.6	67.1	76.3	45.1
Used in past month							
Males	8.1	11.4	16.2	26.5	43.0	52.9	24.8
Females	6.0	10.7	17.7	27.2	42.5	54.4	25.1
Total	7.1	11.1	16.9	26.8	42.7	53.6	25.0
Current drinker (consumed alcohol in past seven days)							
Males	4.4	6.1	9.3	14.9	26.0	34.8	14.8
Females	3.3	6.1	9.5	13.8	23.3	36.6	14.5
Total	3.8	6.1	9.4	14.4	24.7	35.7	14.6
Single occasion risky drinker (drank five or more drinks on one day in past seven days)							
Males	0.5	1.0	2.2	4.7	11.6	20.5	6.0
Females	0.1	0.8	1.3	3.1	6.7	13.5	3.8
Total	0.3	0.9	1.8	3.9	9.2	17.0	4.9

 # Prevalence estimates are within ±3.2 of population values (see section 2.6). See Appendix 4 for 95% confidence interval estimates for different percentages for each age and sex group.

Alcohol use becomes more common with increasing age with 76% of 17-year-olds having consumed alcohol in the year preceding the survey, compared to 19% of 12-year-olds.

Only 32% of all students reported never consuming alcohol.

Students who drank alcohol in the preceding week were classified as 'current drinkers'. The proportion of current drinkers increased with age ($p<0.01$) and peaked among 17-year-olds at 35% for males and 37% for females.

Sex differences in the prevalence of alcohol consumption in the past year were evident in the 12-, 13- and 15-year-olds. Among 15-year-olds, females were more likely than males to have consumed alcohol in the past year ($p<0.01$). Twelve and 13-year-old males were more likely than same aged females to have consumed alcohol in the past year ($p<0.01$).

The percentage of all students who consumed five or more drinks on one occasion in the past week increased from two per cent of 14-year-olds to 17% of 17-year-olds. More males than females drank at risky levels at age 12, 15, 16 and 17 ($p<0.01$).

Table 8A 1 in Appendix 8 shows the proportion of students reporting drinking in the different time periods when data are weighted for age and sex within year level within education sector. Alcohol use prevalence estimates reported in Table 5.1 and Table 8A 1 are generally similar although there was a trend for estimates reported in Table 5.1 to be lower than those reported in Table 8A.1. This difference is around two per cent when data are combined across all 12- to 17-year-olds.

Table 5.2: Alcohol consumption among students who drank in the week before the survey (current drinkers), by age group and sex, Australia, 2014

Drinking behaviour	12 to 15 years			16 to 17 years			12 to 17 years		
	Males (n=715)	Females (n=643)	Total (n=1358)	Males (n=1012)	Females (n=976)	Total (n=1988)	Males (n=1727)	Females (n=1619)	Total (n=3346)
Number of drinks in past seven days^									
Mean (se)‡	5.5 (0.3)	3.9 (0.2)	4.7 (0.2)	8.6 (0.3)	5.4 (0.2)	6.8 (0.2)	7.3 (0.2)	4.8 (0.1)	6.0 (0.1)
% five or more drinks on one occasion#	24.4%	16.4%	20.6%	52.3%	33.6%	43.1%	40.7%	26.8%	34.0%

^ 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 5.2 shows the average number of alcoholic drinks consumed by current drinkers in the seven days before the survey. Across the age groups, the average number of drinks consumed in the past seven days was greater for males (7.3) than females (4.8), ($p<0.01$).

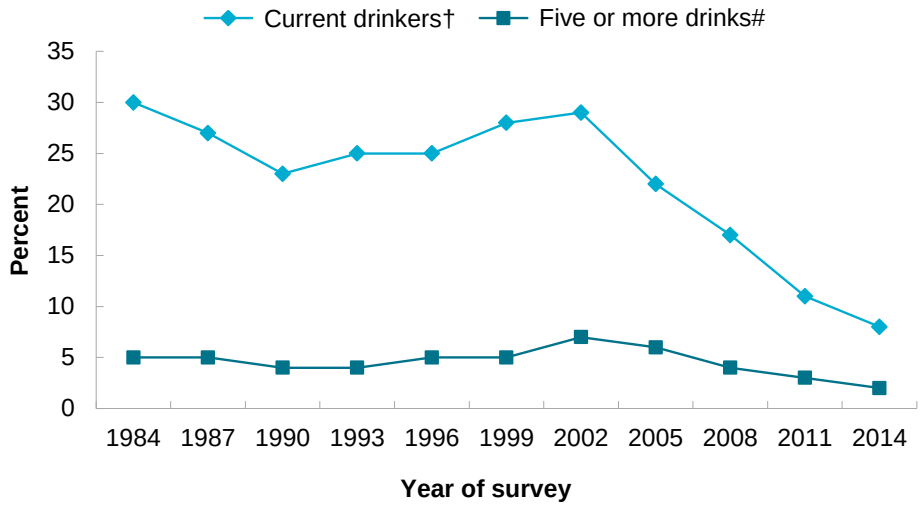
The proportion of current drinkers drinking five or more drinks on at least one occasion in the seven days before the survey increased with age ($p<0.01$). More male current drinkers reported drinking at this level than females ($p<0.01$).

5.2 Has the drinking behaviour of secondary students changed over time?

In this section changes in the prevalence of alcohol consumption among 12- to 15-year-olds, 16- and 17-year-olds and 12- to 17-year-olds are examined for the key indicators: lifetime use, use in the past month, use in the past seven days (current drinking) and consumption of five or more drinks on one occasion in the past seven days among all students and among current drinkers.

Figure 5.1 shows the proportion of all 12- to 15-year-olds in each survey year consuming an alcoholic drink in the seven days prior to the survey, and the proportion drinking five or more drinks on a single occasion in the past seven days. Figure 5.2 shows the results for 16- and 17-year-olds. The proportions shown in the figures are not adjusted for age.

Figure 5.1: Proportion of 12- to 15-year-olds drinking in the seven days before the survey (current drinkers) and the proportion drinking five or more drinks on a single occasion in the past seven days, Australia, 1984-2014†#



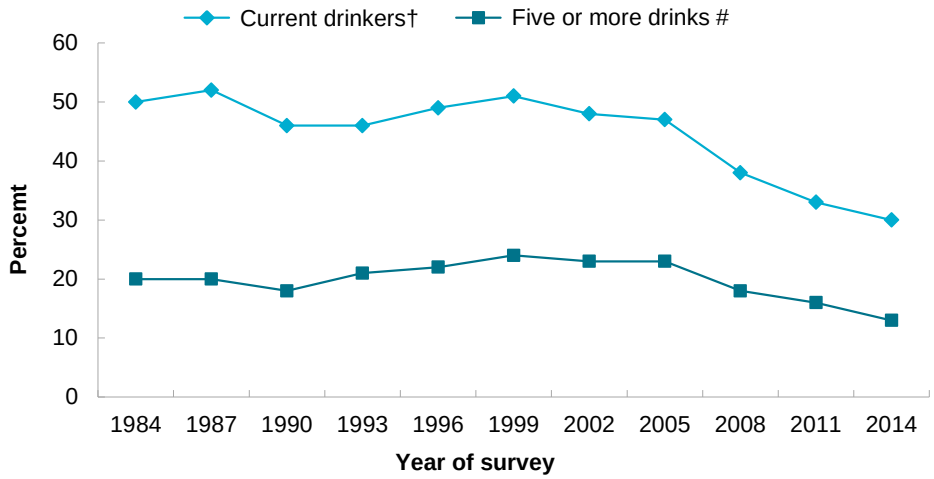
† Students who have consumed alcohol at least once in the past seven days are defined as current drinkers. Given that the 2009 NHMRC Australian drinking guidelines recommend that abstaining from alcohol consumption is the safest option for young people under the age of 18 years – the proportion of current drinkers reflects the proportion of students who do not adhere to this guideline.

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

For 12- to 15-year-olds, the prevalence of current drinking declined during the 1980s, increased in the 1990s to peak in 2002, and then began to decrease again.

The proportion of students who consumed five or more drinks on a single occasion in the past seven days is shown in the lower part of the figure for each survey year. There was little change in the proportions drinking at this level between 1984 and 1999. However the prevalence of risky drinking decreased between 2002 and 2014.

Figure 5.2: Proportion of 16- and 17-year-olds drinking in the seven days before the survey (current drinkers) and the proportion drinking five or more drinks on a single occasion in the past week, Australia, 1984-2014†#



† Students who have consumed alcohol at least once in the past seven days are defined as current drinkers. Given that the 2009 NHMRC Australian drinking guidelines recommend that abstaining from alcohol consumption is the safest option for young people under the age of 18 years – the proportion of current drinkers reflects the proportion of students who do not adhere to this guideline.

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

Among 16- and 17-year-olds, the proportion of students who were current drinkers increased throughout the mid to late 1990s, and then decreased slightly between 1999 and 2002 (Figure 5.2). This decrease has continued into 2014. There was an increase in the proportion of older students drinking five or more drinks on at least one of the preceding seven days between 1990 and 1999 (Figure 5.2). Stabilisation was observed between 1999 and 2005, followed by a decrease between 2005 and 2014.

The statistical significance of changes in smoking prevalence between 2008 and 2014 is considered in Table 5.3.

Table 5.3: Percentage of students involved with alcohol at different levels in 2008, 2011 and 2014, by age group and sex, Australia^

Recency period	12 to 15 years			16 to 17 years			12 to 17 years		
	2008 (%)	2011 (%)	2014 (%)	2008 (%)	2011 (%)	2014 (%)	2008 (%)	2011 (%)	2014 (%)
Lifetime									
Males	78.6**	70.0**	61.7	91.1**	88.2**	83.7	82.0**	75.2**	68.1
Females	78.2**	65.5**	60.2	92.3**	90.3**	86.1	82.3**	72.8**	67.9
Total	78.4**	67.8**	60.9	91.7**	89.3**	84.9	82.1**	74.0**	68.0
Past month									
Males	28.9**	20.6**	15.6	61.8**	52.2	47.3	37.7**	29.6**	24.8
Females	27.5**	18.4**	15.4	59.0**	53.2	47.7	36.4**	28.7**	25.1
Total	28.2**	19.5**	15.5	60.4**	52.7**	47.5	37.1**	29.1**	25.0
Current drinkers (consumed alcohol in past seven days)									
Males	17.1**	12.2**	8.7	41.4**	34.0	29.8	23.6**	18.4**	14.8

Recency period	12 to 15 years			16 to 17 years			12 to 17 years		
	2008 (%)	2011 (%)	2014 (%)	2008 (%)	2011 (%)	2014 (%)	2008 (%)	2011 (%)	2014 (%)
Females	16.1**	10.2**	8.2	35.3**	31.0	29.2	21.6**	16.4	14.5
Total	16.6**	11.2**	8.4	38.3**	32.5	29.5	22.6**	17.4**	14.7
Consumed five or more drinks on one occasion in the past seven days –									
All students									
Males	4.1**	3.2	2.1	21.1**	17.9	15.5	8.6**	7.4	6.0
Females	3.5**	2.1**	1.3	14.6**	13.3	9.7	6.6**	5.4**	3.8
Total	3.8**	2.7**	1.7	17.8**	15.6	12.6	7.7**	6.4**	4.9
Current drinkers									
Males	24.1	26.6	24.4	51.1	53.1	52.3	36.8	40.5	40.7
Females	21.6	20.4	16.4	41.6**	43.0**	33.6	30.9**	33.1**	26.8
Total	22.9	23.8	20.6	46.6	48.2	43.1	34.0	37.0	34.0

*** Significantly different from 2014 at p <0.01.*

^ As of 2009, NHMRC drinking guidelines recommend that abstaining from alcohol consumption is the safest option for young people under the age of 18 years. Given this recommendation, the proportion of students who have reported to have ever had an alcoholic drink in their lifetime or to have consumed alcohol in any of the recency periods listed above reflects the proportions of students who do not adhere to this guideline.

For 12- to 15-year-olds, the proportion of males and females who consumed alcohol in their lifetime, in the past month and past week in 2014 was significantly lower than in 2011 and 2008 ($p<0.01$). The proportion of 12- to 15-year-old females who consumed five or more drinks on a single occasion in 2014 was significantly lower than in 2011 and 2008 ($p<0.01$). The proportion of 12- to 15-year-old males consuming alcohol at this level in 2014 was significantly lower than the proportion found in 2008 ($p<0.01$), but not 2011.

For 16- and 17-year-olds, the proportion of male and female students consuming alcohol in their lifetime was significantly lower than the proportion found in 2011 and 2008 ($p<0.01$). While past month alcohol consumption in 2014 was significantly lower than in 2008 ($p<0.01$), and 2011 ($p<0.01$), the significant decrease between 2011 and 2014 was not found for males and females separately.

While the proportion of all 16- and 17-year-olds consuming alcohol in the week before the survey in 2014 was significantly lower than the proportion found in 2008 ($p<0.01$), there was no change between 2011 and 2014.

The proportion of all 16- and 17-year-olds consuming five or more drinks on one occasion in the week before the survey in 2014 was significantly lower than in 2008 ($p<0.01$), but not 2011. However, there was no significant change in the proportion of older current drinkers consuming alcohol at this level between 2008 and 2014 or between 2011 and 2014.

Among all 12- to 17-year-olds, the proportions drinking in their lifetime, in the past month, in the past seven days and at risky levels in the past seven days in 2014 were significantly lower than the proportions found in 2011 ($p<0.01$) and 2008 ($p<0.01$). While in general, similar decreases were found when data were examined for males and females separately some differences between 2011 and 2014 were not statistically significant (see Table 5.3).

A similar pattern of change was found when the analyses were re-run on data weighted by age and sex within year level within education sectors (refer to Appendix 8, Table 8A.2). Although estimates for alcohol use reported in Table 5.3 were slightly lower than estimates reported in Table 8A.2, the significance of change in alcohol prevalence over time was generally the same, with decreases found between 2008 and 2014 and between 2011 and 2014 for all recency periods for 12- to 17-year-olds.

5.3 What types of alcohol do students drink?

Current drinkers were asked to indicate the type of alcoholic drink they usually consumed. The drink types most commonly consumed by current drinkers are shown in Table 5.4 for 12- to 15 year-olds and 16- and 17-year-olds and 12- to 17 -year-old males and females. As students were asked for their usual drink, students reporting more than one type of drink were excluded from this analysis. In 2014, 66% of all 12- to 17-year-old current drinkers provided only one usual drink type.

Table 5.4: Alcoholic beverage types most commonly consumed by current drinkers[^†#], by age group and sex, Australia, 2014

Beverage type	12 to 15 years			16 to 17 years			12 to 17 years		
	Males (n=450) %	Females (n=400) %	Total (n=850) %	Males (n=654) %	Females (n=643) %	Total (n=1297) %	Males (n=1104) %	Females (n=1043) %	Total (n=2147) %
Premixed spirits	29.2	41.0	34.7	26.8	42.7	34.7	27.8	42.0	34.7
Spirits	17.7	18.8	18.2	21.2	25.4	23.3	19.8	22.8	21.3
Beer (ordinary)	26.4	8.4	17.9	29.9	3.2	16.7	28.5	5.2	17.2
Alcoholic cider	3.5	6.4	4.8	10.6	10.7	10.7	7.7	9.0	8.4
Wine	10.6	10.9	10.8	5.1	7.2	6.1	7.3	8.6	8.0
Alcoholic energy drinks	1.4	3.7	2.5	2.7	4.7	3.7	2.2	4.3	3.2

^ 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.

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

Across all age groups, 35% of current drinkers indicated they usually drank premixed spirits and 21% indicated they consumed spirits that were not premixed.

The consumption of premixed spirits was significantly more common among females than males for both younger and older students ($p<0.01$).

In both age groups, males were more likely than females to drink beer ($p<0.01$).

Among current drinkers, older students were more likely to drink cider or spirits than younger students ($p<0.01$). Younger current drinkers were more likely to drink wine than older current drinkers ($p<0.01$).

5.4 Changes in the type of alcohol consumed between 2008 and 2014

Changes in the proportion of current drinkers' usual drink types between 2008 and 2014 are examined in Table 5.5

Table 5.5: Most common drink types in 2008, 2011 and 2014 among current drinkers^ aged 12 to 17 years (only students indicating one usual drink type included in analysis), by sex, Australia

	12 to 17 years		
	2008 (%)	2011 (%)	2014 (%)
Males			
Premixed spirits (incl. alcoholic sodas and alcoholic energy drinks)	16.8**	31.0	30.0
Spirits	35.2**	23.8	19.8
Beer (ordinary)	34.7**	29.7	28.5
Alcoholic cider	1.1**	2.1**	7.7
Wine	5.3	6.6	7.3
Low alcohol beer	2.8**	3.6	4.4
Champagne or sparkling wine	0.7	0.6	0.4
Liqueurs	2.1	1.1	1.3
Other	1.2	1.5	0.6
Females			
Premixed spirits (incl. alcoholic sodas and alcoholic energy drinks)	51.3	47.5	46.3
Spirits	26.0	30.3**	22.8
Beer (ordinary)	5.1	4.0	5.2
Alcoholic cider	0.7**	1.5**	9.0
Wine	6.2	7.9	8.6
Low alcohol beer	1.4	1.6	1.1
Champagne or sparkling wine	3.8	3.6	3.1
Liqueurs	4.3**	2.9	1.7
Other	1.1	0.8	2.1

*** Significantly different from 2014 at p <0.01.*

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

Among males, the proportion of students consuming spirits in 2014 was significantly lower than the proportion found in 2008 ($p<0.01$), whereas the proportion of males consuming premixed spirits in 2014 was significantly higher than in 2008 ($p<0.01$).

For female current drinkers there was little change in the usual types of drinks consumed, although there was a significant decrease in the proportion drinking spirits that they had to mix themselves between 2011 and 2014 and a significant increase in the proportion drinking alcoholic cider between 2011 and 2014.

5.5 How do students access their alcohol?

Students who had consumed alcohol in their lifetime were asked how they accessed their last alcoholic drink. The most common sources of alcohol for current drinkers are shown in Table 5.6 for males and females in the different age groups.

Table 5.6: Most common ways current drinkers^ accessed their last alcoholic drink#†, by age group and sex, Australia, 2014

	12 to 15 years			16 to 17 years			12 to 17 years		
	Males (%)	Females (%)	Total (%)	Males (%)	Females (%)	Total (%)	Males (%)	Females (%)	Total (%)
Did not buy, supplied by:									
Parents	37.3	38.6	37.9	34.1	41.7	37.9	35.4	40.5	37.9
Siblings	7.8	10.1	8.9	8.4	8.7	8.5	8.1	9.2	8.7
Took from home	10.6	7.2	9.0	2.6	1.2	1.9	5.9	3.5	4.7
Friends	22.2	24.0	23.1	23.5	19.0	21.3	23.0	21.0	22.0
Someone else bought	13.9	14.2	14.0	20.4	24.2	22.3	17.7	20.3	19.0
Bought from:									
Liquor store/ supermarket/bottle shop	0.7	0.2	0.5	4.9	1.8	3.3	3.2	1.2	2.2
Bar/Pub/RSL	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.9	0.5	0.7	0.8	0.5	0.6
Restaurant	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2

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

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

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

Parents were the most common source of alcohol with 38% of 12- to 17-year-old current drinkers indicating their parents gave them their last drink.

Current drinkers aged 12 to 15 years were less likely to get someone else to buy alcohol for them, than were older current drinkers ($p<0.01$)

Among current drinkers aged 12 to 15 years, obtaining alcohol from friends (23%) was more common than obtaining it from someone else (14%). However among older current drinkers, similar proportions indicated they obtained their last alcoholic drink from friends or that someone else bought it for them.

Among current drinkers, two per cent of 12- to 15-year-olds and six per cent of 16- and 17-year-olds reported buying their last alcoholic drink themselves.

Students who reported that someone else bought their last alcoholic drink were asked to indicate who that person was. Responses to this question are shown in Table 5.7 for male and female current drinkers aged 12 to 17 years.

Table 5.7: Common sources of alcohol among current drinkers^ who had someone else buy alcohol for them, by sex, Australia, 2014

	12 to 17 years		
	Males (n=266) %	Females (n=300) %	Total (n=566) %
Friend 18 years or over	71.6	73.7	72.7
Brother/sister 18 years or over	12.3	15.0	13.8
Friend under 18 years	6.3	6.0	6.1
Brother/sister under 18 years	0.4	0.4	0.4
Stranger	6.2	1.9	3.9

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

If someone else bought alcohol for students, it was most likely to be a friend aged 18 years or over (73%).

Only around four per cent of current drinkers who had someone else buy alcohol for them, indicated this person was a stranger, with this more common for males than females (p=0.01).

5.6 Where do students drink?

Current drinkers were asked to indicate where they consumed their last alcoholic drink. The most common responses to this question are shown in Table 5.8.

Table 5.8: Most common locations for consuming alcohol for current drinkers, by age group and sex, Australia, 2014[^†#]

	12 to 15 years			16 to 17 years			12 to 17 years		
	Males (n=637) %	Females (n=577) %	Total (n=1214) %	Males (n=952) %	Females (n=931) %	Total (n=1883) %	Males (n=1589) %	Females (n=1508) %	Total (n=3097) %
Party	26.6	26.0	26.3	42.9	37.8	40.4	36.4	33.3	34.9
At home	42.2	37.2	39.8	26.1	23.7	24.9	32.6	28.9	30.8
Friend's house	11.3	17.8	14.4	19.0	20.0	19.5	15.9	19.2	17.5

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

† 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%.

The three main drinking locations were: at a party, the family home and a friend's home. About 83% of students who were current drinkers indicated they drank their last alcoholic drink in one of these three places.

About 35% of all current drinkers reported having last consumed alcohol at a party and 31% last consumed alcohol in their home. Fewer students reported consuming alcohol at a friend's house (18%).

Current drinkers aged 16 and 17 years were more likely to have had their last alcoholic drink at a party or at a friend's house than were younger current drinkers (p<0.01). Younger

current drinkers were more likely to drink alcohol at home than the older age group ($p<0.01$).

5.7 Adult supervision of student drinking and drinking behaviours

Students were asked if an adult was supervising them (and/or their friends) when they consumed their last alcoholic drink. Table 5.9 shows the percentage of male and female current drinkers in each age group consuming their last alcoholic drink with an adult present.

Table 5.9: Percentage of current drinkers reporting that an adult was supervising when they consumed their last alcoholic drink#, by age group and sex, Australia, 2014

	Current drinkers		
	Males (%)	Females (%)	Total (%)
12 to 15 years	64.7	64.2	64.5
16 to 17 years	61.9	65.4	63.6
12 to 17 years	63.0	65.0	64.0

 # Students who consumed alcohol in the past seven days and provided information about adult supervision.

Overall, the majority (64%) of current drinkers reported adult supervision when consuming their last alcoholic drink.

Male and female current drinkers were equally likely to report an adult was supervising them when they consumed their last alcoholic drink. Adult supervision of student drinking was consistent across each age group for both males and females.

The proportion of male and female current drinkers drinking their last drink in the three most common locations who consumed alcohol under adult supervision is shown in Table 5.10.

Table 5.10: Percentage of current drinkers# drinking at home, at a party or at a friends' house who consumed their last alcoholic drink under adult supervision, by age group and sex, Australia, 2014†

	12 to 15 years			16 to 17 years			12 to 17 years		
	Males (%)	Females (%)	Total (%)	Males (%)	Females (%)	Total (%)	Males (%)	Females (%)	Total (%)
Home	77.1	80.2	78.5	73.8	80.6	77.0	75.5	80.4	77.7
Party	58.4	61.1	59.6	61.7	61.6	61.7	60.7	61.5	61.1
Friend's home	48.1	38.8	42.7	52.1	49.5	50.8	50.9	45.7	48.2

 # Students who consumed alcohol in the past seven days and provided information about adult supervision.

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

The majority (78%) of current drinkers across all age groups who consumed their last alcoholic drink at home did so under adult supervision.

While students who drank at parties were less likely to have been supervised, even among this group, around 61% of students aged between 12 and 17 years drinking at parties reported adult supervision.

Current drinkers who consumed their last drink at a friend's home were the least likely to report adult supervision. However, even when students consumed alcohol at a friend's home, almost half (48%) reported adult supervision.

5.8 Alcohol sources, place alcohol is consumed and drinking behaviour

Table 5.11 shows, for younger and older students, the average number of drinks consumed per week by the three main sources of alcohol and place of consumption.

Table 5.11: Average number of drinks[#] consumed per week among younger (12- to 15-year-olds), older (16- and 17-year-olds) and all current drinkers[^] by source of alcohol and where alcohol was consumed, Australia, 2014[†]

	12 to 15 years	16 to 17 years	12 to 17 years
Alcohol obtained from:			
Parents	3.4	5.4	4.6
Friends	4.6	5.3	5.0
Someone else bought it for me	7.6	8.6	8.3
Where alcohol was consumed:			
Home	3.1	4.4	3.8
Friend's place	5.1	7.3	6.6
Party	6.1	7.8	7.3

 # Means are based on unweighted data. Students who indicated they consumed more than 20 drinks on any of the seven days preceding the survey were excluded from analyses.

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

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

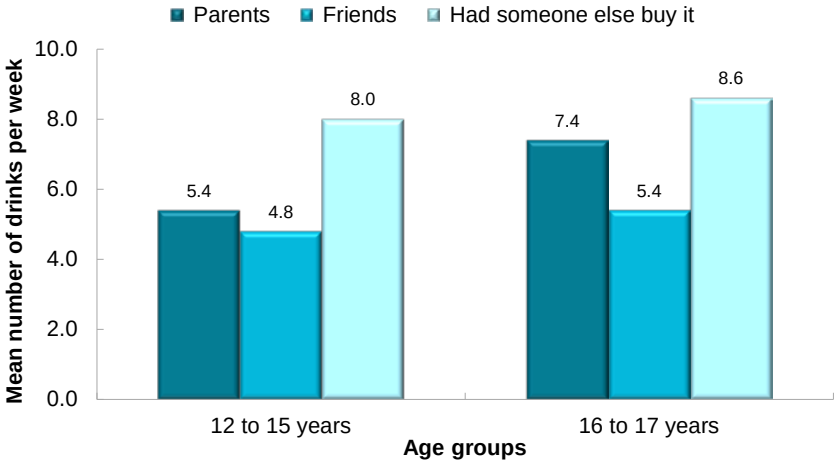
Both younger and older current drinkers drank less alcohol per week if they obtained their alcohol from their parents than if they obtained it by having someone else buy it for them ($p<0.01$).

Among younger students, the average number of drinks consumed was also lower if alcohol was obtained from parents than from friends ($p=0.01$).

Among all students, current drinkers drank significantly fewer alcoholic drinks per week if they consumed alcohol at home than at a friend's place or at a party ($p<0.01$).

The average number of drinks consumed in the past seven days for younger and older students drinking at a party by source of alcohol is shown in Figure 5.3.

Figure 5.3: The average number of drinks consumed in the past seven days for 12- to 15-year-old current drinkers^ (left) and 16- and 17-year-old current drinkers^ (right) who drank their last drink at a party, by source of alcohol, Australia, 2014#†



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

 # Means are based on unweighted data. Students who indicated they consumed more than 20 drinks on any of the seven days preceding the survey were excluded from analyses.

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

Among 16- and 17-year-olds who drank their last drink at a party, current drinkers consumed significantly fewer drinks when friends supplied the alcohol than those current drinkers who obtained their alcohol by either getting it from their parents or someone else buying it for them ($p<0.01$). Among the younger age group, current drinkers who consumed their last drink at a party consumed significantly more drinks when someone else bought it for them than those current drinkers who obtained their alcohol from friends ($p<0.01$).

5.9 How do students see themselves in relation to drinking alcohol?

Students were asked to choose the label that described their drinking behaviours from the following: non-drinker, occasional drinker, light drinker, party drinker, and heavy drinker. The labels chosen by males and females in each age group are shown in Table 5.12.

Table 5.12: Self-description of drinking behaviour, by age and sex, Australia, 2014

	Age (years)						
	12 (%)	13 (%)	14 (%)	15 (%)	16 (%)	17 (%)	12-17 (%)
Non-drinker							
Males	90.7	88.7	84.0	71.1	51.2	37.5	72.4
Females	94.5	91.5	81.4	68.2	50.2	35.9	71.9
Total	92.6	90.1	82.7	69.6	50.7	36.7	72.2
Occasional drinker							
Males	6.7	7.0	9.5	14.8	20.7	23.8	13.1
Females	3.7	4.9	10.0	15.2	20.1	25.2	12.6
Total	5.2	5.9	9.7	15.0	20.4	24.5	12.9
Light drinker							
Males	1.5	1.9	2.2	3.8	4.4	6.4	3.2

	Age (years)						
	12 (%)	13 (%)	14 (%)	15 (%)	16 (%)	17 (%)	12-17 (%)
Females	1.0	2.0	2.5	3.5	4.2	5.6	3.0
Total	1.2	2.0	2.3	3.7	4.3	6.0	3.1
Party drinker							
Males	0.7	1.8	3.6	9.6	21.2	29.6	10.0
Females	0.8	1.5	6.0	12.6	25.3	32.5	12.2
Total	0.8	1.7	4.7	11.0	23.2	31.0	11.1
Heavy drinker							
Males	0.4	0.6	0.8	0.8	2.6	2.7	1.2
Females	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.5	0.2	0.8	0.3
Total	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.7	1.4	1.8	0.8

Around 72% of all students saw themselves as non-drinkers. The proportion of students identifying as non-drinkers decreased with age for both males and females ($p<0.01$).

The proportion of students seeing themselves as occasional drinkers or party drinkers increased with age ($p<0.01$) and peaked among 17-year-olds at 25% for occasional drinkers and 31% for party drinkers.

More females than males identified as a party drinker ($p<0.01$), whereas more males than females identified as heavy drinkers ($p<0.01$).

Table 5.13 shows the relationship between the place where current drinkers consumed their last drink and how they obtained this drink and the three most common labels for drinking: non-drinker, occasional drinker and party drinker.

Table 5.13: How current drinkers^ obtained their last drink and where they consumed it, by self-described drinking status and age group, Australia, 2014#

	'Non-drinker'		'Occasional drinker'		'Party drinker'	
Self-Label	12–15 (n=297) %	16–17 (n=107) %	12–15 (n=397) %	16–17 (n=473) %	12–15 (n=309) %	16–17 (n=978) %
Alcohol obtained from:						
Parents	56.7	56.2	44.1	43.6	17.3	33.9
Friends	14.0	18.2	21.0	28.1	34.7	19.1
Someone else bought it for me	3.6	4.0	8.2	15.2	29.5	28.5
Where alcohol was consumed:						
Home	58.1	43.1	50.8	35.6	13.7	15.3
Party	11.8	22.4	20.4	31.2	45.8	49.3
Friend's place	10.4	8.8	11.6	21.0	21.7	19.5

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

 # Percentages exclude responses from students who reported multiple drinking locations and multiple drink sources.

Current drinkers who identified as non-drinkers and occasional drinkers mainly obtained their alcohol from their parents and mainly consumed it at home.

Close to half of all younger and older current drinkers who identified as party drinkers consumed their last drink at a party.

The most common source of alcohol for younger party drinkers was their friends, while the most common source of alcohol for older party drinkers were parents.

5.10 Negative experiences after consuming alcohol and intentions to get drunk

Table 5.14 lists the 11 most common negative outcomes that current drinkers reported experiencing after drinking alcohol in the last 12 months. Students could select more than one outcome for this question.

Table 5.14: Negative outcomes experienced after drinking alcohol in the past 12 months for current drinkers[#], by age group and sex, Australia, 2014 (multiple responses allowed)

	12 to 15 years			16 to 17 years			12 to 17 years		
	Males (n=715) %	Females (n=643) %	Total (n=1358) %	Males (n=1012) %	Females (n=976)	Total (n=1988) %	Males (n=1727) %	Females (n=1619) %	Total (n=3346) %
Negative Outcome									
Been sick (vomited)	23.3	29.3	26.2	40.6	46.5	43.5	33.7	39.9	36.7
Tried smoking	16.8	26.8	21.6	37.8	48.5	43.0	29.4	40.1	34.6
Had an argument	14.0	23.3	18.5	25.6	28.2	26.9	21.0	26.3	23.6
Tried any drugs	14.6	18.8	16.6	25.5	20.8	23.2	21.2	20.1	20.6
Attended work or school	10.4	15.4	12.8	17.6	18.5	18.0	14.7	17.3	16.0
Verbally abused someone	10.3	11.1	10.7	18.6	12.0	15.4	15.3	11.7	13.5
Created a public disturbance or nuisance	8.4	7.1	7.8	17.2	6.9	12.1	13.7	6.9	10.4
Caused damage to property	9.5	8.2	8.9	15.6	5.5	10.6	13.2	6.5	9.9
Hit someone or had a fight	11.1	8.9	10.0	10.7	4.7	7.7	10.8	6.3	8.6
Missed school	5.7	11.1	8.3	6.8	7.1	7.0	6.3	8.7	7.5
Been in trouble with	5,1	7.6	6.3	9.4	3.3	6.4	7.7	4.9	6.4

	12 to 15 years			16 to 17 years			12 to 17 years		
	Males (n=715) %	Females (n=643) %	Total (n=1358) %	Males (n=1012) %	Females (n=976)	Total (n=1988) %	Males (n=1727) %	Females (n=1619) %	Total (n=3346) %
the police									
Total Number of Negative Outcomes %^									
None	54.5	47.8	51.3	32.8	29.3	31.1	41.8	36.7	39.3
One negative outcome	20.2	16.5	18.4	20.4	20.2	20.3	20.3	18.7	19.5
Two negative outcomes	6.6	10.4	8.4	10.9	16.1	13.4	9.1	13.8	11.4
Three or more negative outcomes	18.7	25.4	21.9	35.9	34.4	35.2	28.8	30.8	29.8

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

^ 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).

In total, 61% of all 12- to 17-year-old current drinkers reported having experienced at least one negative outcome after drinking alcohol in the past 12 months. The proportion of older current drinkers experiencing at least one negative outcome was greater than the proportion of younger current drinkers ($p<0.01$). However, experiencing at least one negative outcome after drinking did not differ between males and females for either younger or older current drinkers.

The most commonly occurring negative event was vomiting (37%) followed by trying a cigarette (35%), having an argument (24%) and trying drugs (21%).

Except for being in trouble with the police and missing school, older current drinkers were generally more likely than those aged 12 to 15 years to experience a negative event ($p<0.01$). Generally males were more likely than females to experience a negative event after drinking alcohol in the past 12 months.

Table 5.15 shows the proportion and frequency by which current drinkers consume alcohol with the intention to get drunk, by sex and age group.

Table 5.15: Percentage of current drinkers[#] indicating different frequencies of intending to get drunk when they consume alcohol, by age group and sex, Australia, 2014

Intention to Get Drunk	12 to 15 years			16 to 17 years			12 to 17 years		
	Males (%)	Females (%)	Total (%)	Males (%)	Females (%)	Total (%)	Males (%)	Females (%)	Total (%)
Never	37.9	36.8	37.4	18.2	23.4	20.7	25.9	28.4	27.1
A few times/ sometimes	40.3	42.6	41.4	35.7	37.7	36.7	37.5	39.5	38.5
Most times/ every time	21.8	20.6	21.2	46.2	38.9	42.6	36.6	32.1	34.4

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

Around 34% of current drinkers reported that they intended to get drunk most or every time they consumed alcohol. Older current drinkers were more likely to consume alcohol with the intention of getting drunk than younger current drinkers ($p<0.01$).

Among the older age group, male current drinkers were more likely than female current drinkers to intend to get drunk ($p<0.01$).

5.11 Drinking five or more alcoholic drinks on any one drinking occasion

Table 5.16 shows the proportion of all 12- to 17-year-old students consuming five or more alcoholic drinks on any one occasion when drinking in different recency periods by sex and age group.

Table 5.16: Percentage of students drinking five or more alcoholic drinks on at least one occasion in different recency periods, by age group and sex, Australia, 2014

	12 to 15 years			16 to 17 years			12 to 17 years		
	Males (%)	Females (%)	Total (%)	Males (%)	Females (%)	Total (%)	Males (%)	Females (%)	Total (%)
Last two weeks	6.5	5.3	6.0	26.1	20.1	23.1	12.2	9.8	11.0
Last four weeks	9.6	9.5	9.5	36.7	32.5	34.6	17.5	16.3	16.9
Last year	19.5	18.8	19.2	53.4	52.0	52.7	29.4	28.8	29.1
Lifetime	23.2	21.7	22.5	56.2	54.4	55.3	32.9	31.5	32.2

Around 32% of 12- to 17-year-olds reported drinking five or more alcoholic drinks on at least one occasion in their lifetime.

The proportion of older students reporting drinking five or more alcoholic drinks on at least one occasion in the last two weeks, last four weeks, last year and lifetime was greater than the proportion of younger students (all $p<0.01$).

For the younger age group, males were more likely than females to report drinking five or more alcoholic drinks on at least one occasion in the last two weeks ($p<0.01$). For 16- and 17-year-olds, males were more likely than females to report drinking five or more alcoholic drinks on at least one occasion in the last two weeks and in the last four weeks (all $p<0.01$).

6 Use of over-the-counter and Illicit Substances among Australian Secondary Students

6.1 Analgesics

Table 6.1 shows the proportion of male and female students using analgesics for any reason in their lifetime, past year, past month and past week by age.

Table 6.1: Analgesics: Percentage of students using analgesics in each recency category, by age and sex, Australia, 2014[#]

	Age (years)						
	12 (%)	13 (%)	14 (%)	15 (%)	16 (%)	17 (%)	12-17 (%)
Never used							
Males	9.4	7.7	6.1	5.8	6.4	5.2	6.9
Females	3.5	2.9	2.7	2.3	2.7	2.1	2.7
Total	6.6	5.3	4.4	4.1	4.6	3.7	4.8
Ever used							
Males	90.6	92.3	93.9	94.2	93.6	94.8	93.1
Females	96.5	97.1	97.3	97.7	97.3	97.9	97.3
Total	93.4	94.7	95.6	95.9	95.4	96.3	95.2
Past year							
Males	86.7	88.1	90.6	90.9	90.0	90.2	89.4
Females	93.5	95.6	95.1	96.3	95.6	96.0	95.3
Total	90.0	91.8	92.8	93.5	92.8	93.1	92.3
Past month							
Males	58.9	58.3	60.1	63.6	63.9	63.4	63.1
Females	68.4	73.1	76.1	80.1	82.0	83.0	76.9
Total	63.6	65.6	68.0	71.7	72.9	73.3	69.0
Past week							
Males	31.3	30.7	34.9	34.6	35.4	35.6	33.7
Females	39.7	42.6	46.4	51.2	54.5	51.9	47.6
Total	35.4	36.6	40.6	42.8	44.8	43.9	40.5

 # Prevalence estimates are within ±3.2 of population values (see section 2.6). See Appendix 4 for 95% confidence interval estimates for different percentages for each age and sex group.

The reported use of painkillers/analgesics such as 'Disprin', 'Panadol' or 'Nurofen' was extremely high among 12- to 17-year-old students. Among the entire sample, only five per cent of students had never used analgesics.

Over two-thirds of all students had used these medications in the past month.

The proportion of students using analgesics in the past week increased from 35% of 12-year-olds to 45% of 16-year-olds and 44% of 17-year-olds. The age increase was more evident for females than males.

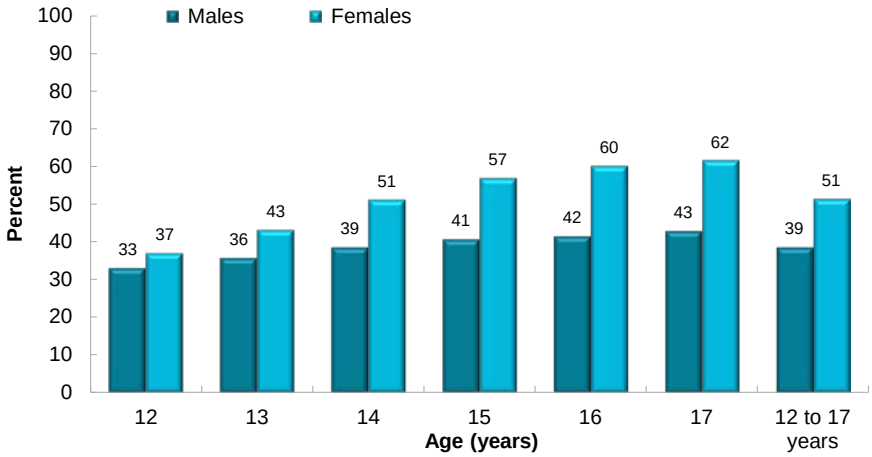
At all ages, females were significantly more likely than males to have used analgesics in their lifetime, in the past year, past month and the past week ($p<0.01$).

Regularity of use: Of students who had used analgesics in the past year, 54% of females and 43% of males had used analgesics 10 or more times in the previous year. Sixteen per cent of males and 10% of females reported use of analgesics only once or twice in the past year.

Of the male students who had used analgesics in the past week, 71% had used them only once or twice, while 20% had used them 3-5 times. Of the female students who had used analgesics in the past week, 68% had used them once or twice and 22% had used them 3-5 times.

Figure 6.1 shows for all male and female students the proportion using analgesics regularly (10 or more times) in the past year.

Figure 6.1: Percentage of male and female students in each age group using analgesics 10 or more times in the past year, Australia, 2014



The proportion of students using analgesics regularly increased with age for both males and females ($p<0.01$), although the increase for females was greater than for males. A similar proportion of males and females used analgesics regularly among 12-year-olds, however from the age of 13 significantly more females than males were regular users of analgesics ($p<0.01$).

Figure 6.2 shows for students who had used analgesics in the past year, the most common reasons for their most recent use of an analgesic.

Table 6.2: Reasons for most recent analgesic use for students using analgesics in the past year (multiple responses allowed), by age and sex, Australia, 2014*^

	Age (years)						
	12 (%)	13 (%)	14 (%)	15 (%)	16 (%)	17 (%)	12-17 (%)
Headache/migraine							
Males	52.7	53.9	55.7	57.7	61.4	59.5	56.7
Females	46.5	47.4	47.6	48.4	49.6	46.9	47.8

	Age (years)						
	12 (%)	13 (%)	14 (%)	15 (%)	16 (%)	17 (%)	12-17 (%)
Total	49.6	50.5	51.6	53.0	55.3	52.9	52.1
Relief of Cold/'Flu symptoms							
Males	34.0	29.5	28.0	28.6	27.7	27.4	29.2
Females	28.3	24.2	23.0	19.1	20.3	20.6	22.6
Total	31.1	26.8	25.4	23.8	23.9	23.9	25.8
Toothache/ Dental work pain							
Males	6.2	4.9	6.4	5.3	4.8	3.9	5.3
Females	7.6	6.5	6.7	6.9	4.6	4.0	6.1
Total	6.9	5.7	6.6	6.1	4.7	3.9	5.7
Menstrual pain							
Males	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Females	11.8	17.8	24.7	30.5	33.7	37.7	25.8
Total	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Pains from sport injury /strains							
Males	14.7	16.6	16.9	17.7	17.5	17.1	16.8
Females	11.9	11.5	11.1	9.7	7.5	8.3	10.0
Total	13.3	14.0	14.0	13.7	12.4	12.5	13.3

** Base: students using analgesics in past year.*

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

The most common reason for using analgesics for males and females was to help ease pain associated with a headache/migraine (52%). Among males the second most common reason was to help ease symptoms of a cold or 'flu (29%). Among females the second most common reason was to help ease symptoms of menstrual pain (26%) followed by a cold or 'flu (23%). Males were more likely than females to report using analgesics to help relieve pain from a sports injury in each age group. Around six per cent of all students reported using analgesics for pain associated with toothache or detail procedures.

Table 6.3 shows the most common ways students who used analgesics in the past year accessed them.

Table 6.3: Most common sources of analgesics for those students who used analgesics in the past year, by age and sex, Australia, 2014*

	Age (years)						
	12 (%)	13 (%)	14 (%)	15 (%)	16 (%)	17 (%)	12-17 (%)
Parents							
Males	94.1	94.4	94.0	92.0	90.2	87.0	92.1
Females	95.0	93.2	91.8	87.6	85.7	77.1	88.7
Total	94.5	93.7	92.9	89.8	87.9	81.8	90.4

	Age (years)						
	12 (%)	13 (%)	14 (%)	15 (%)	16 (%)	17 (%)	12-17 (%)
Took from home							
Males	0.4	1.3	2.9	3.3	5.1	4.9	2.9
Females	1.1	2.3	4.2	5.0	5.7	9.7	4.6
Total	0.8	1.8	3.5	4.2	5.4	7.4	3.8
I bought it							
Males	0.7	0.4	0.5	1.9	3.1	6.0	1.9
Females	0.5	0.5	1.8	4.1	7.3	12.1	4.2
Total	0.6	0.5	1.1	3.0	5.3	9.2	3.1
Friends							
Males	0.3	0.6	0.2	0.5	1.3	1.7	0.7
Females	0.9	1.3	1.4	1.9	2.1	2.4	1.7
Total	0.6	0.9	0.8	1.2	1.7	2.1	1.2

** Base: students using analgesics in past year.*

Among students who had used analgesics in the past year, the majority reported obtaining the last analgesic they had used from their parents (90%).

Four per cent of students reported they took the analgesic from home without permission and around three per cent reported buying the analgesic. Among students aged 14 years and over, females were more likely to report buying analgesics than males of the same age ($p<0.01$).

6.1.1 Changes in the prevalence of analgesic use between 2008 and 2014

Table 6.4 presents the proportion of 12- to 15-year-olds, 16- and 17-year-olds, and 12- to 17-year-olds that had used analgesics in their lifetime, in the past month and in the past week in each survey year between 2008 and 2014.

Table 6.4: Percentage of students using analgesics in their lifetime, in the past month and in the past week in 2008, 2011 and 2014, by age group and sex, Australia

	12 to 15 years			16 to 17 years			12 to 17 years		
	2008 (%)	2011 (%)	2014 (%)	2008 (%)	2011 (%)	201 4(%)	2008 (%)	201 1(%)	2014 (%)
Lifetime									
Males	93.3	94.6**	92.7	95.2	96.1**	94.1	93.8	95.0**	93.1
Females	96.6	96.9	97.2	98.0	98.3	97.6	97.0	97.3	97.3
Total	95.0	95.7	94.9	96.6	97.2**	95.8	95.4	96.2**	95.2
Past month									
Males	63.2	60.9	60.2	63.7	63.4	63.7	63.3	61.7	61.3
Females	74.2	73.7	74.5	83.1	82.9	82.4	76.8	76.5	76.9
Total	68.6	67.3	67.2	73.6	73.4	73.1	70.0	69.1	69.0

	12 to 15 years			16 to 17 years			12 to 17 years		
	2008 (%)	2011 (%)	2014 (%)	2008 (%)	2011 (%)	201 4(%)	2008 (%)	201 1(%)	2014 (%)
Past week									
Males	34.7	32.3	32.9	33.7	33.6	35.5	34.4	32.7	33.7
Females	44.8	41.8**	45.1	51.6	53.1	53.3	46.8	45.2	47.6
Total	39.7	37.1	38.9	42.9	43.6	44.4	40.6	39.0	40.5

*** Significantly different from 2014 at p <0.01.*

The proportion of students who had ever used analgesics in their lifetime in 2014 was lower than the proportion found in 2011 ($p<0.01$) but similar to levels found in 2008. The proportion of younger and older males who used analgesics in their lifetime decreased between 2011 and 2014 ($p<0.01$), suggesting this group is contributing to the overall decrease in prevalence.

There was no change in the proportion of students reporting use of analgesics in the past month or in the past week between 2008 and 2014 or between 2011 and 2014.

6.2 Tranquilisers

Table 6.5 shows the proportion of male and female students using tranquilisers other than for medical reasons in their lifetime, the past year, past month and past week by age.

Table 6.5: Tranquilisers: Percentage of students using tranquilisers in each recency category, by age and sex, Australia, 2014[#]

	Age (years)						
	12 (%)	13 (%)	14 (%)	15 (%)	16 (%)	17 (%)	12-17 (%)
Never used							
Males	85.5	83.2	83.2	82.7	80.6	80.3	82.7
Females	85.7	82.4	79.4	78.3	78.5	79.2	80.6
Total	85.6	82.8	81.3	80.5	79.5	79.8	81.7
Ever used							
Males	14.5	16.8	16.8	17.3	19.4	19.7	17.3
Females	14.3	17.6	20.6	21.7	21.5	20.8	19.4
Total	14.4	17.2	18.7	19.5	20.5	20.2	18.3
Past year							
Males	8.7	9.8	10.1	11.1	12.9	12.9	10.8
Females	7.6	12.2	14.5	14.9	15.4	15.1	13.3
Total	8.2	11.0	12.3	13.0	14.2	14.0	12.0
Past month							
Males	3.6	4.0	4.0	5.5	5.4	4.9	4.5
Females	3.0	4.4	6.4	5.9	5.8	5.4	5.2
Total	3.3	4.2	5.2	5.7	5.6	5.1	4.9

	Age (years)						
	12 (%)	13 (%)	14 (%)	15 (%)	16 (%)	17 (%)	12-17 (%)
Past week							
Males	2.0	2.3	2.7	2.9	3.0	3.0	2.7
Females	2.0	2.7	4.1	3.5	2.8	3.5	3.1
Total	2.0	2.5	3.4	3.2	2.9	3.3	2.9

 # Prevalence estimates are within ±3.2 of population values (see section 2.6). See Appendix 4 for 95% confidence interval estimates for different percentages for each age and sex group.

Around 18% of all students reported use of tranquilisers other than for medical reasons at least once in their lifetime. The proportion of students ever using tranquilisers increased with age from 14% of 12-year-olds to 21% of 16-year-olds and 20% of 17-year-olds ($p<0.01$).

Use in the past month was low across all ages with around five per cent of students reporting to have used tranquilisers in this time period.

Around three per cent of 12- to 17-year-old students used tranquilisers other than for medical reasons in the week before the survey.

There were few differences in male and female students' use of tranquilisers. However, among 14-year-olds, lifetime use, use in the past 12 months and use in the past month was higher for female compared to male students ($p<0.01$). Among 15-year-olds significantly more females than males had used tranquilisers in their lifetime and in the past year ($p<0.01$).

Regularity of use: Of the 12% of students who had used tranquilisers in the past year, around 49% of males and 47% of females had used them only once or twice, while 19% of males and 22% of females had used them 3-5 times.

Table 6.6 shows how the 12% of students who had used tranquilisers in the past year accessed them. Parents were the most common source of tranquilisers for secondary school students, with 69% of males and 66% of females obtaining their last tranquilliser from their parents. The second most common source of tranquilisers was students indicating that they were prescribed them (18%). As the prevalence questions asked students to report on the non-medical use of tranquilisers this response may indicate that around 18% of students did not fully understand the term non-medical use. However it could also mean that students are using their tranquilisers at times when they do not think there is a real medical need.

Around five per cent of all students indicated they took the tranquilliser they last used from home without their parent's permission and around six per cent of all students indicated that someone else gave them these substances.

Table 6.6: Common sources of tranquilisers among those students who used tranquilisers in the past year, by age and sex, Australia, 2014[#]

	Age (years)						
	12 (%)	13 (%)	14 (%)	15 (%)	16 (%)	17 (%)	12-17 (%)
Parents							
Males	89.4	74.6	74.1	66.5	58.8	59.2	69.1
Female	76.7	73.5	63.2	63.1	65.1	56.9	65.5

	Age (years)						
	12 (%)	13 (%)	14 (%)	15 (%)	16 (%)	17 (%)	12-17 (%)
Total	83.1	74.0	67.6	64.5	62.2	57.9	67.1
Prescribed them							
Males	5.5	21.0	12.8	14.4	14.5	19.7	14.8
Females	13.0	14.7	21.5	21.5	20.5	23.9	19.8
Total	9.2	17.5	17.9	18.6	17.8	22.1	17.6
Took from home							
Males	0	0.7	3.5	8.3	5.4	0.9	3.5
Females	1.1	5.5	6.4	5.3	6.5	6.7	5.6
Total	0.5	3.4	5.2	6.5	6.0	4.2	4.7
I bought it							
Males	0	2.1	1.1	2.3	8.4	4.6	3.4
Females	0	0.8	2.1	2.2	2.2	4.2	2.1
Total	0	1.3	1.7	2.3	5.0	4.4	2.7
Given to me by someone else							
Males	4.0	1.6	5.4	5.6	10.0	10.5	6.5
Females	8.0	3.9	4.4	5.1	4.7	6.8	5.2
Total	6.0	2.9	4.8	5.3	7.1	8.4	5.8

 # Base: students using tranquilisers in past year.

6.2.1 Changes in the prevalence of tranquiliser use between 2008 and 2014

Table 6.7 presents the proportion of 12- to 15-year-olds, 16- and 17-year-olds, and 12- to 17-year-olds that had used tranquilisers in their lifetime, in the past month and in the past week in each survey year between 2008 and 2014.

Table 6.7: Percentage of students using tranquilisers in their lifetime, in the past month or in the past week in 2008, 2011 and 2014, by age group and sex, Australia

	12 to 15 years			16 to 17 years			12 to 17 years		
	2008 (%)	2011 (%)	2014 (%)	2008 (%)	2011 (%)	2014 (%)	2008 (%)	2011 (%)	2014 (%)
Lifetime									
Males	15.4	16.1	16.4	18.3	18.7	19.6	16.2	16.9	17.3
Females	17.0	16.5**	18.6	19.6	19.2	21.2	17.8	17.3**	19.4
Total	16.2	16.3	17.5	19.0	19.0	20.4	17.0	17.1	18.3
Past month									
Males	4.0	3.8	4.3	4.4	4.9	5.2	4.1	4.1	4.6
Females	3.8**	4.1	5.0	4.2	5.0	5.6	9**	4.3	5.2
Total	3.9	3.9	4.6	4.3	4.9	5.4	4.0**	4.2	4.9

	12 to 15 years			16 to 17 years			12 to 17 years		
	2008 (%)	2011 (%)	2014 (%)	2008 (%)	2011 (%)	2014 (%)	2008 (%)	2011 (%)	2014 (%)
Past week									
Males	2.5	2.1	2.5	2.5	2.7	3.0	2.5	2.2	2.7
Females	2.1**	2.1**	3.1	2.1	2.6	3.2	2.1**	2.2**	3.1
Total	2.3	2.1**	2.8	2.3	2.6	3.1	2.3**	2.2**	2.9

*** Significantly different from 2014 at p <0.01.*

Table 6.7 shows that most change in the prevalence of tranquiliser use was generally only found among females.

When data were combined for all 12- to 17-year-olds use of tranquillisers in past month and past week increased significantly between 2008 and 2014 ($p<0.01$). There was also a significant increase in past week tranquilliser use between 2011 and 2014 ($p<0.01$).

6.3 Cannabis

Table 6.8 shows the proportion of male and female students using cannabis in their lifetime, in the past year, past month and past week by age.

Table 6.8: Cannabis: Percentage of students using cannabis in each recency category, by age and sex, Australia, 2014[#]

	Age (years)						
	12 (%)	13 (%)	14 (%)	15 (%)	16 (%)	17 (%)	12-17 (%)
Never used							
Males	95.6	92.9	87.8	80.6	72.4	65.5	82.9
Females	96.5	94.8	90.2	82.2	76.3	72.0	85.6
Total	96.0	93.8	89.0	81.4	74.4	68.7	84.2
Ever used							
Males	4.4	7.1	12.2	19.4	27.6	34.5	17.1
Females	3.5	5.2	9.8	17.8	23.7	28.0	14.4
Total	4.0	6.2	11.0	18.6	25.6	31.3	15.8
Past year							
Males	2.2	5.6	9.9	16.6	24.5	30.2	14.4
Females	2.2	4.4	8.9	16.1	21.6	23.9	12.7
Total	2.2	5.0	9.4	16.3	23.1	27.1	13.6
Past month							
Males	0.6	3.3	5.0	10.0	14.1	18.0	8.3
Females	1.3	2.3	5.4	7.3	9.2	10.0	5.8
Total	1.0	2.8	5.2	8.6	11.7	14.0	7.1
Past week							
Males	0.5	1.9	3.1	6.7	8.4	10.2	5.0

	Age (years)						
	12 (%)	13 (%)	14 (%)	15 (%)	16 (%)	17 (%)	12-17 (%)
Females	0.9	1.1	3.3	3.3	4.5	4.6	2.9
Total	0.7	1.5	3.2	5.0	6.4	7.4	4.0

 # Prevalence estimates are within ±3.2 of population values (see section 2.6). See Appendix 4 for 95% confidence interval estimates for different percentages for each age and sex group.

Cannabis was the illicit substance most commonly used by secondary school students and prevalence was highest in the older age groups. Sixteen per cent of secondary students surveyed indicated they had used cannabis at some time in their lives with seven per cent using it in the past month and four per cent using it in the past week.

In all recency periods the proportion of students using cannabis increased significantly with age ($p<0.01$).

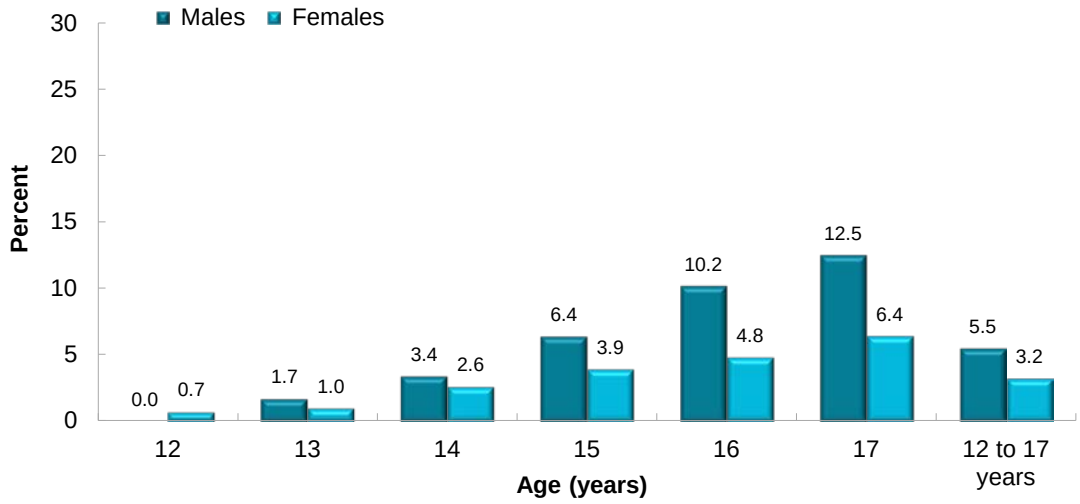
For all 12- to 17-year-olds, a greater proportion of males than females used cannabis in all recency periods ($p<0.01$). For 17-year-olds, males were more likely than females to use cannabis in their lifetime, in the past year, past month use and past week. For 16-year-olds, significantly more males than females reported lifetime use, past month use and past week use of cannabis. Among 15-year-olds, past-month and past week use was higher for males than females.

Type of cannabis used, who it was used with and location of use**:** Students were asked to indicate whether they usually smoked cannabis as a joint, used it in a bong or ate it. Of the 14% of students who had used cannabis in the past year, the most common method for using cannabis was through a bong (62% of males and 54% of females). Joints were the next most usual method of using cannabis (38% of students who had used cannabis in the past year). The majority of students using cannabis in the past year generally used it with others (81% of males and 85% of females). The most common places for using cannabis were: at a friend's home (40%), at a party (21%), at home (14%) and in a park (10%).

Regularity of use**:** Of the 14% of students who reported using cannabis in the past year, 32% of males and 40% of females reported using cannabis only once or twice, while 39% of males and 26% of females had used it on 10 or more occasions.

Students who had used cannabis on 10 or more occasions in the past year were termed regular users. The proportion of regular users at each age among all students is shown in Figure 6.2.

Figure 6.2: Percentage of all male and female students in each age group who had used cannabis at least 10 times in the previous year, Australia, 2014

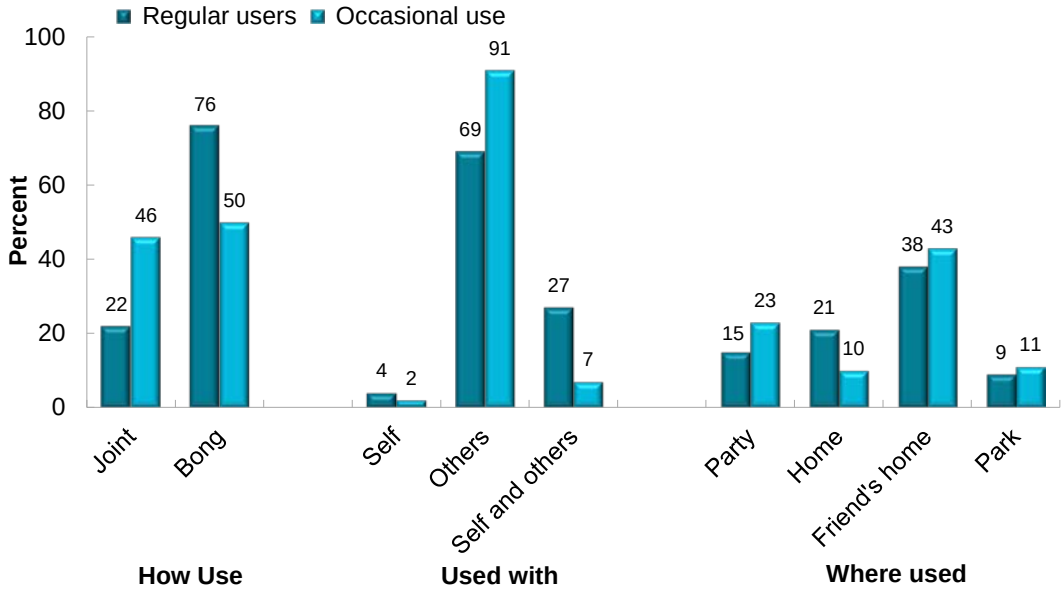


Regular use of cannabis increased with age and peaked at 13% of 17-year-old males and six per cent of 17-year-old females.

Among 15-, 16- and 17- year-olds, males were significantly more likely than females to report regular cannabis use ($p<0.01$).

Figure 6.3 shows how regular users and occasional users (used less than 10 times within the past year) used cannabis, who they used it with and where it was generally used.

Figure 6.3: How cannabis is used, who cannabis is used with and where cannabis is used, for students who have used cannabis regularly or occasionally in the past year, Australia, 2014[#]



[#] *Regular users are students who have used cannabis 10 or more times within the past year. Occasional users are students who have used cannabis less than 10 times within the past year.*

As shown in Figure 6.3, regular users of cannabis were more likely to use a bong than occasional users who were more likely to smoke cannabis as a joint.

While more occasional users than regular users used cannabis with others, more regular users than occasional users reported they were equally likely to use cannabis by themselves and with others (p<0.01).

Regular users (21%) were more likely than occasional users (10%) to use cannabis in their own home (p<0.01), while occasional users (23%) were more likely than regular users (15%) to use cannabis at a party (p<0.01).

6.3.1 Changes in the prevalence of cannabis use between 2008 and 2014

The proportions of students using cannabis in their lifetime, in the past month or in the past week in 2008, 2011 and 2014 are shown in Table 6.9.

Table 6.9: Percentage of students using cannabis in their lifetime, in the past month and in the past week in 2008, 2011 and 2014, by age group and sex, Australia

	12 to 15 years			16 to 17 years			12 to 17 years		
	2008 (%)	2011 (%)	2014 (%)	2008 (%)	2011 (%)	2014 (%)	2008 (%)	2011 (%)	2014 (%)
Lifetime									
Males	9.9	10.5	10.9	26.5	29.8	30.7	14.4	16.2	17.1
Female	8.9	8.7	9.3	22.2	23.8	25.6	12.7	13.4	14.4
Total	9.4	9.6	10.1	24.3	26.7	28.2	13.6	14.8	15.8
Past month									
Males	4.7	4.9	4.8	13.0	15.0	15.9	6.9	7.9	8.3
Females	3.9	3.8	4.2	9.0	10.1	9.5	5.4	5.7	5.8
Total	4.3	4.3	4.5	10.9	12.5	12.7	6.2	6.8	7.1
Past week									
Males	3.2	2.8	3.1	8.2	8.6	9.2	4.5	4.5	5.0
Females	2.0	1.8	2.2	3.6	4.8	4.5	2.5	2.7	2.9
Total	2.6	2.3	2.7	5.9	6.6	6.9	3.5	3.6	4.0

*** Significantly different from 2014 at p <0.01.*

There were no differences in the proportions of secondary school students using cannabis in any recency period between 2008 and 2014 or between 2011 and 2014.

6.4 Inhalants

Table 6.10 shows the proportion of male and female students using inhalants in their lifetime, past year, past month and past week by age.

Table 6.10: Inhalants: Percentage of students using inhalants in each recency category, by age and sex, Australia, 2014[#]

	Age (years)						
	12 (%)	13 (%)	14 (%)	15 (%)	16 (%)	17 (%)	12-17 (%)
Never used							
Males	82.1	84.0	84.4	84.4	86.5	89.7	85.0
Females	79.6	78.7	81.4	83.1	88.6	89.6	83.2

	Age (years)						
	12 (%)	13 (%)	14 (%)	15 (%)	16 (%)	17 (%)	12-17 (%)
Total	80.9	81.4	82.9	83.8	87.6	89.6	84.1
Ever used							
Males	17.9	16.0	15.6	15.6	13.5	10.3	15.0
Females	20.4	21.3	18.6	16.9	11.4	10.4	16.8
Total	19.1	18.6	17.1	16.2	12.4	10.4	15.9
Past year							
Males	12.6	11.7	10.8	10.7	9.1	5.5	10.3
Females	15.1	16.5	14.1	12.5	7.5	7.4	12.4
Total	13.9	14.1	12.5	11.6	8.3	6.5	11.4
Past month							
Males	5.8	6.3	6.7	5.1	4.8	2.5	5.3
Females	9.9	9.0	8.0	5.3	3.6	4.5	6.8
Total	7.8	7.6	7.4	5.2	4.2	3.5	6.1
Past week							
Males	4.7	4.5	4.2	3.7	3.3	1.8	3.8
Females	6.1	4.7	5.0	3.2	2.2	1.5	3.9
Total	5.4	4.6	4.6	3.5	2.8	1.7	3.8

 # Prevalence estimates are within ±3.2 of population values (see section 2.6). See Appendix 4 for 95% confidence interval estimates for different percentages for each age and sex group.

Only 16% of all students had deliberately sniffed inhalants at least once during their lives. Around six per cent of all students reported use in the past month, with four per cent of students reporting use in the past week.

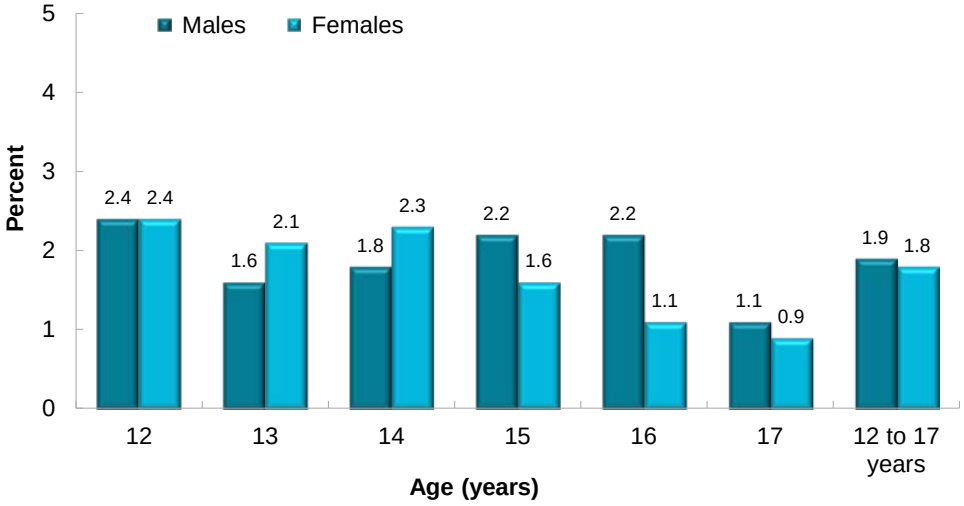
Use of inhalants in all recency periods was associated with age, however unlike the pattern seen in other substances, use of inhalants decreased with age ($p<0.01$). Nineteen per cent of 12-year-olds reported they had deliberately sniffed inhalants at least once during their lives compared to 10% cent of 17-year-olds.

There were a number of significant differences in the use of inhalants between male and female students, however these differences were generally isolated to the younger students. More females than males aged 13 had used inhalants in their lifetime, past year and in the past month. For 14-year-olds, more females than males had used inhalants in the past year. Lastly, for 12- and 17-year-olds, more females than males had used inhalants in the past month.

Regularity of use: Of the 11% of students who had used inhalants in the previous year, just under half (males: 46%; females: 47%) reported using inhalants only once or twice. Around one in five students who had used inhalants in the previous year reported using inhalants 3-5 times. Nineteen per cent of males and 15% of females reported using inhalants ten or more times.

Figure 6.4 shows the proportion of all male and female students in each age group having used inhalants 10 or more times in the past year.

Figure 6.4: Proportion of all male and female students in each age group who used inhalants 10 or more times in the year before the survey, Australia, 2014



Regular use of inhalants among secondary school students is low, with less than two per cent of students using these substances regularly.

6.4.1 Changes in the prevalence of inhalant use between 2008 and 2014

The proportions of students using inhalants in their lifetime, in the past month or in the past week in 2008, 2011 and 2014 are shown in Table 6.11.

Table 6.11: Percentage of students using inhalants in their lifetime, in the past month and in the past week in 2008, 2011 and 2014, by age group and sex, Australia

	12 to 15 years			16 to 17 years			12 to 17 years		
	2008 (%)	2011 (%)	2014 (%)	2008 (%)	2011 (%)	2014 (%)	2008 (%)	2011 (%)	2014 (%)
Lifetime									
Males	19.5**	17.4	16.3	15.2**	13.7	12.1	18.3**	16.3	15.0
Female	21.4	21.0	19.3	13.7**	11.7	11.0	19.2**	18.2	16.8
Total	20.4**	19.2	17.8	14.4**	12.6	11.5	18.8**	17.3	15.9
Past month									
Males	8.6**	7.1	6.0	5.2	4.3	3.8	7.7**	6.3	5.3
Females	9.8**	9.5	8.0	3.9	3.8	4.0	8.1	7.8	6.8
Total	9.2**	8.3	7.0	4.5	4.0	3.9	7.9**	7.0	6.1

*** Significantly different from 2014 at p <0.01.*

Among 12- to 15-year-olds, significantly fewer students reported use of inhalants in their lifetime or in the past month in 2014 compared to 2008 ($p<0.01$). However, the proportions found in 2014 did not differ from those found in 2011.

Among 16- and 17-year-olds, in 2014, 12% of students had deliberately sniffed inhalants at least once during their lives, which was significantly lower than the 14% found in 2008 ($p<0.01$) but was not different to the proportion found in 2011. However the proportion of

older students reporting use in the previous month in 2014 was not different from the proportions in 2011 or 2008.

The proportion of 12- and 17-year-olds using inhalants in their lifetime and in the past month in 2014 was significantly lower than in 2008 ($p<0.01$) but not 2011.

6.5 Hallucinogens

Table 6.12 shows the proportion of male and female students using hallucinogens such as LSD in their lifetime, the past year and past month by age.

Table 6.12: Hallucinogens: Percentage of students using hallucinogens in each recency category, by age and sex, Australia, 2014[#]

	Age (years)						
	12(%)	13(%)	14(%)	15(%)	16(%)	17(%)	12-17(%)
Never used							
Males	99.1	98.4	97.9	96.5	94.1	91.9	96.5
Females	99.4	99.3	98.1	97.4	97.3	96.0	98.0
Total	99.3	98.9	97.9	96.9	95.7	94.0	97.2
Ever used							
Males	0.9	1.6	2.1	3.5	5.9	8.1	3.5
Females	0.6	0.7	1.9	2.6	2.7	4.0	2.0
Total	0.7	1.1	2.1	3.1	4.3	6.0	2.8
Past year							
Males	0.4	1.2	1.8	3.1	4.6	6.8	2.8
Females	0.5	0.5	1.7	2.2	2.0	3.2	1.6
Total	0.5	0.9	1.8	2.7	3.3	5.0	2.2
Past month							
Males	0.1	0.7	1.1	1.3	1.8	2.6	1.2
Females	0.4	0.3	0.8	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.6
Total	0.2	0.5	0.9	1.0	1.2	1.7	0.9

 # Prevalence estimates are within ±3.2 of population values (see section 2.6). See Appendix 4 for 95% confidence interval estimates for different percentages for each age and sex group.

The use of hallucinogens, such as LSD, was extremely low among secondary school students. Only three per cent of all secondary students had ever used hallucinogens, the proportion increased significantly with age ($p<0.01$) and peaked in 17-year-olds (6%).

Only one per cent of all students reported having used hallucinogens at some time in the past month.

In all time periods, the proportion of male students using hallucinogens was greater than female students ($p<0.01$). These differences were statistically significant for students aged 16 and 17 in all recency periods.

Regularity of use: Of the two per cent of students who had used hallucinogens in the past year, 48% of males and 63% of females had used hallucinogens only once or twice.

6.5.1 Changes in the prevalence of hallucinogen use between 2008 and 2014

Table 6.13 shows the proportion of students using hallucinogens in their lifetime and in the previous month in each survey year between 2008 and 2014.

Table 6.13: Percentage of students using hallucinogens, in their lifetime and in the past month in 2008, 2011 and 2014, by age group and sex, Australia

	12 to 15 years			16 to 17 years			12 to 17 years		
	2008 (%)	2011 (%)	2014 (%)	2008 (%)	2011 (%)	2014 (%)	2008 (%)	2011 (%)	2014 (%)
Lifetime									
Males	2.6	2.4	2.0	6.2	6.4	6.9	3.6	3.6	3.5
Female	1.9	1.7	1.5	3.8	4.6	3.3	2.5	2.5	2.0
Total	2.3	2.0	1.8	5.0	5.5	5.1	3.0	3.0	2.8
Past month									
Male	1.3	0.9	0.8	2.9	2.3	2.2	1.7**	1.3	1.2
Females	0.7	0.5	0.5	1.0	1.2	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.6
Total	1.0	0.7	0.7	1.9	1.7	1.5	1.3**	1.0	0.9

*** Significantly different from 2011 p <0.01.*

In 2014, for both age groups, the proportions using hallucinogens in their lifetime or in the past month were not significantly different to the proportions found in 2011 or 2008.

Combining data across the two age groups, while there was no change in the prevalence of lifetime use of hallucinogens, there was a significant decrease in the proportion reporting past month hallucinogen use between 2008 and 2014 ($p<0.01$).

6.6 Amphetamines

Table 6.14 shows the proportion of male and female students using amphetamines in their lifetime, the past year and past month by age. The behaviour reported here is intended to exclude any medically supervised use.

Table 6.14: Amphetamines: Percentage of students using amphetamines in each recency category, by age and sex, Australia, 2014[#]

	Age (years)						
	12 (%)	13 (%)	14 (%)	15 (%)	16 (%)	17 (%)	12-17 (%)
Never used							
Males	99.3	98.3	98.4	96.8	95.1	94.6	97.2
Females	98.7	99.0	97.9	97.3	98.0	97.5	98.1
Total	99.0	98.7	98.2	97.0	96.5	96.1	97.6
Ever used							
Males	0.7	1.7	1.6	3.2	4.9	5.4	2.8
Females	1.3	1.0	2.1	2.7	2.0	2.5	1.9

	Age (years)						
	12 (%)	13 (%)	14 (%)	15 (%)	16 (%)	17 (%)	12-17 (%)
Total	1.0	1.3	1.8	3.0	3.5	3.9	2.4
Past year							
Males	0.6	0.8	1.4	2.8	3.9	4.4	2.3
Females	1.1	0.8	1.9	2.1	1.6	2.1	1.6
Total	0.8	0.8	1.6	2.5	2.8	3.3	1.9
Past month							
Males	0.4	0.4	1.0	1.4	2.5	2.6	1.3
Females	0.6	0.6	0.9	1.0	0.6	1.0	0.8
Total	0.5	0.5	0.9	1.2	1.5	1.8	1.1

 # Prevalence estimates are within ±3.2 of population values (see section 2.6). See Appendix 4 for 95% confidence interval estimates for different percentages for each age and sex group.

The vast majority of secondary school students (98%) had never used amphetamines. Ever use of amphetamines increased from one per cent of 12-year-olds to four per cent of 17-year-olds (p<0.01).

Use in all recency periods was low at all ages, with only one per cent of all students reporting amphetamine use in the past month (1%).

Regularity of use: Of the two per cent of students reporting use of amphetamines in the previous year, 40% of males and 61% of females had used amphetamines only once or twice.

6.6.1 Changes in the prevalence of amphetamine use between 2008 and 2014

The proportion of students using amphetamines in 2008, 2011 and 2014 is shown in Table 6.15.

Table 6.15: Percentage of students using amphetamines in their lifetime and in the past month in 2008, 2011 and 2014, by age group and sex, Australia

	12 to 15 years			16 to 17 years			12 to 17 years		
	2008 (%)	2011 (%)	2014 (%)	2008 (%)	2011 (%)	2014 (%)	2008 (%)	2011 (%)	2014 (%)
Lifetime									
Males	2.8**	2.3	1.8	6.6	5.2	5.1	3.8**	3.2	2.8
Females	2.6**	1.8	1.8	5.8**	4.3**	2.2	3.6**	2.5	1.9
Total	2.7**	2.1	1.8	6.2**	4.7	3.7	3.7**	2.9	2.4
Past month									
Males	1.3	1.0	0.8	2.8	2.3	2.5	1.7	1.4	1.3
Females	1.1	0.5	0.8	2.0**	1.3	0.8	1.3**	0.8	0.8
Total	1.2	0.7	0.8	2.4	1.8	1.6	1.5**	1.1	1.1

*** Significantly different from 2011 p<0.01.*

Among the 12- to 15-year-olds, the prevalence of lifetime amphetamine use in 2014 was significantly lower than in 2008 ($p<0.01$) but not 2011. For 12- to 15-year-olds, past month amphetamine use in 2014 did not differ to the proportions found in 2008 or 2011.

For 16- and 17-year-olds, the proportion reporting lifetime use of amphetamines in 2014 was significantly less than in 2008 ($p<0.01$), but not 2011.

For all 12- to 17-year-olds, the proportion of students reporting lifetime use and past month use of amphetamines in 2014 was significantly lower than the proportions found in 2008 ($p<0.01$), but not 2011.

6.7 Performance or image enhancing drugs

Table 6.16 shows the proportion of male and female students using performance or image enhancing drugs without a doctor's prescription in an attempt to improve sporting ability, increase muscle size or improve appearance, in their lifetime, in the past year and past month by age.

Table 6.16: Performance or image enhancing drugs: Percentage of students reporting use of performance or image enhancing drugs without a doctor's prescription in an attempt to improve sporting ability, increase muscle size or improve appearance, by age and sex, Australia, 2014[#]

	Age (years)						
	12 (%)	13 (%)	14 (%)	15 (%)	16 (%)	17 (%)	12-17 (%)
Never used							
Males	97.9	97.9	97.4	96.9	96.8	96.7	97.3
Females	98.2	98.1	97.2	97.8	98.9	98.4	98.1
Total	98.1	98.0	97.3	97.3	97.8	97.5	97.7
Ever used							
Males	2.1	2.1	2.6	3.1	3.2	3.3	2.7
Females	1.8	1.9	2.8	2.2	1.1	1.6	1.9
Total	1.9	2.0	2.7	2.7	2.2	2.5	2.3
Past year							
Males	1.7	1.4	2.0	2.6	2.6	2.8	2.2
Females	1.4	1.5	2.1	1.7	0.8	1.0	1.4
Total	1.6	1.5	2.0	2.2	1.7	1.9	1.8
Past month							
Males	0.9	0.7	1.1	1.9	2.0	1.8	1.4
Females	1.2	0.9	1.0	0.8	0.3	0.4	0.8
Total	1.1	0.8	1.1	1.4	1.2	1.1	1.1

 # Prevalence estimates are within ±3.2 of population values (see section 2.6). See Appendix 4 for 95% confidence interval estimates for different percentages for each age and sex group.

Very few secondary school students reported use of performance or image enhancing drugs, such as steroids, without a prescription. Only two per cent of all students had ever used performance or image enhancing drugs without a prescription and only one per cent reported that they had used these drugs in the month prior to the survey.

When data were combined across males and females, there was no association with age for lifetime use, use in the past year or use in the past month.

In all time periods, more male than female students reported using performance or image enhancing drugs ($p<0.01$). These differences were statistically significant for students aged 16 and 17 in all recency of use periods ($p<0.01$).

Regularity of use: Of the two per cent of all students who had used performance or image enhancing drugs in the year before the survey, 39% of males and 54% of females had used them only one or twice.

6.7.1 Changes in the prevalence of performance or image enhancing drugs use between 2008 and 2014

The proportion of students using performance or image enhancing drugs in their lifetime, in the past month or in the past week in 2008, 2011 and 2014 are shown in Table 6.17.

Table 6.17: Percentage of students using performance or image enhancing drugs in their lifetime, in the past month and in the past week in 2008, 2011 and 2014, by age group and sex, Australia

	12 to 15 years			16 to 17 years			12 to 17 years		
	2008 (%)	2011 (%)	2014 (%)	2008 (%)	2011 (%)	2014 (%)	2008 (%)	2011 (%)	2014 (%)
Lifetime									
Males	3.1	2.4	2.5	3.2	2.5	3.3	3.1	2.4	2.7
Female	1.9	1.7	2.2	1.4	1.1	1.4	1.7	1.5	1.9
Total	2.5	2.0	2.3	2.3	1.8	2.3	2.4	2.0	2.3
Past month									
Males	1.6	0.9	1.1	1.8	1.5	1.9	1.7	1.1	1.4
Females	0.6	0.5**	1.0	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.8
Total	1.1	0.7**	1.1	1.2	0.9	1.1	1.1	0.8**	1.1

*** Significantly different from 2014 at p <0.01.*

Among younger and older students, there was no change in the proportions using performance or image enhancing drugs in their lifetime between 2014 and 2011 or 2008. While there was also no change in past month use between 2008 and 2014 for older students, among 12- to 15-year-olds, the proportion of students reporting past month use in 2014 was greater than in 2011 ($p<0.01$).

For all students aged 12 to 17 years, lifetime use of performance or image enhancing drugs in 2014 was similar to levels found in 2011 and 2008. However the proportion of students reporting past month use of performance or image enhancing drugs increased between 2011 (0.8%) and 2014 (1.1%) ($p<0.01$).

6.8 Opiates

Table 6.18 shows the proportion of male and female students using opiates other than for medical reasons in their lifetime, the past year and past month by age.

Table 6.18: Opiates: Percentage of students using opiates other than for medical reasons in each recency category, by age and sex, Australia, 2014[#]

	Age (years)						
	12 (%)	13 (%)	14 (%)	15 (%)	16 (%)	17 (%)	12-17 (%)
Never used							
Males	99.2	98.5	98.2	98.3	97.5	97.3	98.2
Females	98.5	99.2	98.7	98.6	98.7	98.9	98.7
Total	98.8	98.8	98.5	98.4	98.1	98.1	98.5
Ever used							
Males	0.8	1.5	1.8	1.7	2.5	2.7	1.8
Females	1.5	0.8	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.1	1.3
Total	1.2	1.2	1.5	1.6	1.9	1.9	1.5
Past year							
Males	0.5	1.0	1.5	1.3	1.7	2.2	1.3
Females	1.1	0.4	1.1	0.9	1.0	0.6	0.9
Total	0.8	0.7	1.3	1.1	1.3	1.4	1.1
Past month							
Males	0.1	0.5	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.1	0.8
Females	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.4
Total	0.3	0.4	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.6

Prevalence estimates are within ± 3.2 of population values (see section 2.6). See Appendix 4 for 95% confidence interval estimates for different percentages for each age and sex group.

The use of opiates or narcotics such as heroin or morphine other than for medical reasons among secondary school students was extremely low. Ninety-nine per cent of all students reported that they had never used opiates or narcotics.

One per cent of students reported using opiates in the past year.

Regularity of use: Among the small proportion (1%) of secondary school students who reported having used opiates in the year prior to the survey, around half (53%) had used these substances only once or twice.

6.8.1 Changes in the prevalence of opiate use between 2008 and 2014

Table 6.19 shows the proportion of students indicating they had used opiates in their lifetime or in the past month, in 2008, 2011 and 2014.

Table 6.19: Percentage of students who had used opiates in their lifetime and in the past month in 2008, 2011 and 2014, by age group and sex, Australia

	12 to 15 years			16 to 17 years			12 to 17 years		
	2008 (%)	2011 (%)	2014 (%)	2008 (%)	2011 (%)	2014 (%)	2008 (%)	2011 (%)	2014 (%)
Lifetime									
Males	2.1	1.9	1.4	2.9	1.5**	2.6	2.3	1.7	1.8
Females	1.9**	1.5	1.3	1.8	1.4	1.2	1.9**	1.5	1.3
Total	2.0**	1.7	1.4	2.3	1.4	1.9	2.1**	1.6	1.5
Past month									
Males	1.0	0.7	0.7	1.4	0.8	1.0	1.2	0.7	0.8
Females	0.6	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.6	0.4	0.4
Total	0.8	0.5	0.6	1.0	0.6	0.6	0.9	0.5	0.6

*** Significantly different from 2014 at p <0.01.*

For 12- to 15-year-olds, lifetime use of opiates in 2014 was significantly lower than in 2008 ($p<0.01$). The proportion of 12- to 15-year-olds using opiates in the month before the survey in 2014 was similar to proportions found in 2011 and 2008.

For 16- and 17-year-olds, there was no change in the proportion of students using opiates in their lifetime or in the past month between 2008 and 2014.

When data were combined across the 12- to 17-year-olds, the proportion using opiates in their lifetime in 2014 was significantly lower than the proportion found in 2008 ($p<0.01$). However there was no change in the proportion of students using opiates in the past month between 2014 and 2008.

6.9 Cocaine

Table 6.20 shows the proportion of male and female students using cocaine in their lifetime, the past year and past month by age.

Table 6.20: Cocaine: Percentage of students using cocaine in each recency category, by age and sex, Australia, 2014[#]

	Age (years)						
	12 (%)	13 (%)	14 (%)	15 (%)	16 (%)	17 (%)	12-17 (%)
Never used							
Males	98.9	98.5	98.2	97.1	96.2	95.8	97.5
Females	99.0	99.0	98.4	98.7	98.6	98.3	98.7
Total	98.9	98.8	98.3	97.9	97.4	97.0	98.1
Ever used							
Males	1.1	1.5	1.8	2.9	3.8	4.2	2.5
Females	1.0	1.0	1.6	1.3	1.4	1.7	1.3
Total	1.1	1.2	1.7	2.1	2.6	3.0	1.9
Past year							

	Age (years)						
	12 (%)	13 (%)	14 (%)	15 (%)	16 (%)	17 (%)	12-17 (%)
Males	0.6	0.9	1.4	2.3	2.8	3.3	1.8
Females	0.7	0.8	1.3	0.9	1.2	1.3	1.0
Total	0.7	0.8	1.3	1.6	2.0	2.3	1.4
Past month							
Males	0.5	0.5	1.0	1.4	1.5	1.4	1.1
Females	0.7	0.4	0.7	0.7	0.4	0.6	0.6
Total	0.6	0.5	0.9	1.1	1.0	1.0	0.8

 # Prevalence estimates are within ± 3.2 of population values (see section 2.6). See Appendix 4 for 95% confidence interval estimates for different percentages for each age and sex group.

The majority of secondary school students had never tried cocaine (98%).

Only one per cent of students across all age groups reported that they had used cocaine in the month before the survey.

Regularity of use: Of the one per cent of students who reported using cocaine in the year prior to the survey, 49% of males and 62% of females had used them only once or twice.

6.9.1 Changes in the prevalence of cocaine use between 2008 and 2014

The proportion of students reporting to have used cocaine in 2008, 2011 and 2014 are shown in Table 6.21.

Table 6.21: Percentage of students who had used cocaine in their life and in the past month in 2008, 2011 and 2014, by age group and sex, Australia

	12 to 15 years			16 to 17 years			12 to 17 years		
	2008 (%)	2011 (%)	2014 (%)	2008 (%)	2011 (%)	2014 (%)	2008 (%)	2011 (%)	2014 (%)
Lifetime									
Males	2.1	1.8	1.8	4.6	2.9	4.0	2.8	2.1	2.5
Females	1.7	1.0	1.2	2.9**	1.7	1.5	2.1**	1.2	1.3
Total	1.9	1.4	1.5	3.7	2.3	2.7	2.4**	1.7	1.9
Past month									
Males	1.2	0.5	0.9	2.1	1.5	1.5	1.5	0.8	1.1
Females	0.7	0.3	0.6	0.7	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.4	0.6
Total	1.0	0.4**	0.8	1.4	1.0	1.0	1.1	0.6	0.8

*** Significantly different from 2014 at p <0.01.*

When data were combined across the two age groups, there was a significant decrease in the proportion of 12- to 17-year-olds reporting to have used cocaine in their lifetime between 2008 and 2014 ($p<0.01$). These changes were driven by a decrease among female students, as there was no change in the proportion of male students reporting lifetime use of cocaine. There was no change in the proportion of 12- to 17-year-old students indicating they had used cocaine in the month prior to the survey between 2008 and 2014.

6.10 Ecstasy

Table 6.22 shows the proportion of male and female students reporting the use of ecstasy in their lifetime, the past year and past month by age.

Table 6.22: Ecstasy: Percentage of students using ecstasy in each recency period, by age and sex, Australia, 2014#

	Age (years)						
	12 (%)	13 (%)	14 (%)	15 (%)	16 (%)	17 (%)	12-17 (%)
Never used							
Males	99.2	99.4	97.4	96.4	92.4	90.8	96.1
Females	99.0	99.5	98.0	98.1	96.1	95.3	97.7
Total	99.1	99.5	97.7	97.2	94.2	93.0	96.9
Ever used							
Males	0.8	0.6	2.6	3.6	7.6	9.2	3.9
Females	1.0	0.5	2.0	1.9	3.9	4.7	2.3
Total	0.9	0.5	2.3	2.8	5.8	7.0	3.1
Past year							
Males	0.2	0.3	2.1	3.2	6.6	8.0	3.3
Females	0.9	0.5	1.5	1.6	3.3	4.2	1.9
Total	0.5	0.4	1.8	2.4	5.0	6.1	2.6
Past month							
Males	0.1	0.2	1.1	1.4	3.5	4.5	1.7
Females	0.9	0.2	0.6	0.5	1.5	1.9	0.9
Total	0.5	0.2	0.9	1.0	2.5	3.2	1.3

 # Prevalence estimates are within ±3.2 of population values (see section 2.6). See Appendix 4 for 95% confidence interval estimates for different percentages for each age and sex group.

The majority of secondary school students (97%) had never used ecstasy. The proportion of students who had ever used ecstasy increased significantly with age ($p<0.01$), from two per cent of 14-year-olds to seven per cent of 17-year-olds.

Around three per cent of all students reported having used ecstasy at some time in the past year and only one per cent indicated they had used ecstasy in the previous month.

Among 15-, 16- and 17-year-olds, males more likely than females to report using ecstasy in each recency period ($p<0.01$).

Regularity of use: Among the three per cent of student who reported using ecstasy in the year prior to the survey, around 48% had used it only once or twice.

6.10.1 Changes in the prevalence of ecstasy use between 2008 and 2014

The proportions of students reporting to have used ecstasy in each survey year between 2008 and 2014 are shown in Table 6.23.

Table 6.23: Percentage of students who had used ecstasy in their lifetime and in the past month in 2008, 2011 and 2014, by age group and sex, Australia

	12 to 15 years			16 to 17 years			12 to 17 years		
	2008 (%)	2011 (%)	2014 (%)	2008 (%)	2011 (%)	2014 (%)	2008 (%)	2011 (%)	2014 (%)
Lifetime									
Males	2.7	2.3	1.9	8.8	5.2**	8.3	4.4	3.2	3.9
Females	2.4**	1.3	1.4	6.9**	4.4	4.3	3.7**	2.3	2.3
Total	2.6**	1.8	1.6	7.8	4.8	6.3	4.1**	2.7	3.1
Past month									
Males	1.5**	0.7	0.7	4.3	2.1**	3.9	2.3**	1.2	1.7
Females	0.9	0.4	0.6	2.6	1.2	1.7	1.4	0.6	0.9
Total	1.2**	0.6	0.6	3.4	1.6**	2.8	1.8**	0.9**	1.3

*** Significantly different from 2011 p <0.01.*

For 12- to 15-year-olds, the prevalence of lifetime and past month use of ecstasy decreased between 2008 and 2014 ($p<0.01$). However the prevalence of lifetime and past month use of ecstasy in 2014 was similar to that found in 2011.

While for all 16- and 17-year-old students there was no change in the prevalence of lifetime use of ecstasy between 2008 and 2014, past month use increased between 2011 and 2014 ($p<0.01$).

For all students aged 12 to 17 years, there was a significant decrease in the proportion reporting lifetime use and past month use of ecstasy between 2008 and 2014 ($p<0.01$). However, the proportion of students reporting ecstasy use in the past month in 2014 was significantly higher than that found in 2011 ($p<0.01$).

6.11 Ethno-botanicals

For the first time, the 2014 survey asked all students whether they had used any ethno-botanicals, such as Salvia, Kraton, Khat and Kava in the past year. Table 6.24 shows the proportion of male and female students reporting the use of ethno-botanicals in the past year by age.

Table 6.24: Ethno-botanicals: Percentage of students using ethno-botanicals in the past year, by age and sex, Australia, 2014#

	Age (years)						
	12 (%)	13 (%)	14 (%)	15 (%)	16 (%)	17 (%)	12-17 (%)
Past year							
Males	2.0	1.2	2.2	2.0	2.8	3.0	2.1
Females	0.8	0.9	1.1	1.4	1.2	1.9	1.2
Total	1.4	1.1	1.6	1.7	2.0	2.4	1.7

 # Prevalence estimates are within ±3.2 of population values (see section 2.6). See Appendix 4 for 95% confidence interval estimates for different percentages for each age and sex group.

Most secondary school students had not used ethno-botanicals in the past year with less than two per cent of all students reporting use of ethno-botanicals in the past year.

6.12 Synthetic drugs

The proportions of students reporting to have used synthetic drugs in the past year are shown by age in Table 6.25.

Table 6.25: Synthetic drugs: Percentage of students using any synthetic drugs in the past year, by age, Australia, 2014#^

	Age (years)						
	12 (%)	13 (%)	14 (%)	15 (%)	16 (%)	17 (%)	12-17 (%)
Synthetic cannabis	0.7	1.0	2.1	2.8	3.5	3.9	2.3
Emerging synthetic hallucinogens	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.6	0.4	0.9	0.4
MDPV	0.4	0.3	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.5
Mephedrone	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.7	0.4
Other synthetic substance	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.2
Did not use any synthetic drug	99.4	98.9	97.8	96.7	96.2	95.6	97.5

 # Prevalence estimates are within ±3.2 of population values (see section 2.6). See Appendix 4 for 95% confidence interval estimates for different percentages for each age and sex group.

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

The use of synthetic drugs, such as synthetic cannabis and MDPV, among secondary school students in the past twelve months was uncommon. The majority of students (98%) reported they had never used synthetic cannabis or any new synthetic drug in the last twelve months.

Synthetic cannabis was the most common synthetic drug, with around two per cent of secondary school students reporting that they had used synthetic cannabis in the past twelve months. Age was positively associated with use of synthetic drugs, with use of these substances highest among 17-year-olds.

6.13 Last substance used

Students were asked to indicate the last illicit substance they had used if any. Table 6.26 lists the proportion of students selecting each substance.

Table 6.26: Last substance used: Percentage of students in each age reporting last substance used, Australia, 2014

	Age (years)						
	12 (%)	13 (%)	14 (%)	15 (%)	16 (%)	17 (%)	12-17 (%)
Cannabis	2.0	3.7	7.7	13.3	19.5	22.2	11.0
Ecstasy	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.3	1.0	0.8	0.4
Performance or image enhancing drugs	0.0	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2
Amphetamines	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.2
Hallucinogens	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.2

	Age (years)						
	12 (%)	13 (%)	14 (%)	15 (%)	16 (%)	17 (%)	12-17 (%)
Opiates including heroin	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1
Synthetic cannabis or other new synthetic drugs	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.1
Did not use any substance in the past year	97.6	95.7	91.5	85.3	78.4	75.8	87.8

Table 6.26 shows cannabis was the most common substance used in the past year (11%). Similar to other substances, the proportion of students reporting to have used cannabis in the past twelve months increased with age: from two per cent among 12-year-olds to 22% among 17-year-olds.

6.14 Access to last substance used

In 2014, adolescents who reported use of one of the seven illicit substances in Table 6.26 in the past year mainly obtained this substance from friends (75%). This was either given to them by a friend (50%), or purchased from a friend (25%). Only nine per cent of students who had used a substance in the past year reported buying the last substance they had used from a stranger.

6.15 Change in the use of any illicit substances

The proportion of male and female students in each age group who had used any of cannabis, hallucinogens, amphetamines, cocaine, opiates or ecstasy in their lifetime and in the month prior to the survey in 2008, 2011 and 2014 are shown in Table 6.27.

Table 6.27: Percentage of students who had used any illicit substance or any illicit substance excluding cannabis, in their lifetime or in the past month in 2008, 2011 and 2014, by age group and sex, Australia

	12 to 15 years			16 to 17 years			12 to 17 years		
	2008 (%)	2011 (%)	2014 (%)	2008 (%)	2011 (%)	2014 (%)	2008 (%)	2011 (%)	2014 (%)
Any illicit substance									
Lifetime									
Males	11.9	11.9	10.5	28.2	29.6	29.7	16.3	16.9	16.1
Females	10.6	10.3	9.1	23.7	24.2	24.3	14.3	14.4	13.7
Total	11.2	11.1	9.8	25.9	26.8	27.0	15.3	15.6	14.9
Past month									
Males	5.7	6.3	4.8	14.7	15.7	15.7	8.1	9.0	8.0
Females	4.7	4.7	4.1	10.1	10.8	9.4	6.3	6.5	5.7
Total	5.2	5.5	4.5	12.4	13.2	12.6	7.2	7.7	6.9

	12 to 15 years			16 to 17 years			12 to 17 years		
	2008 (%)	2011 (%)	2014 (%)	2008 (%)	2011 (%)	2014 (%)	2008 (%)	2011 (%)	2014 (%)
Any illicit substance excluding cannabis									
Lifetime									
Males	5.8**	5.7**	4.2	12.5	10.5	12.1	7.6	7.1	6.5
Females	5.0**	4.8**	3.5	10.2**	8.5	7.1	6.5**	5.9**	4.6
Total	5.4**	5.3**	3.8	11.3	9.5	9.6	7.1**	6.5	5.5
Past month									
Males	2.8**	2.8**	1.6	6.4	5.1	5.3	3.8**	3.5	2.7
Females	2.0	1.9	1.4	3.8	3.1	2.4	2.5**	2.3	1.7
Total	2.4**	2.4**	1.5	5.0	4.1	3.9	3.1**	2.9	2.2

*** Significantly different from 2014 at p <0.01.*

Among both younger and older students, the 2014 proportion of students using any illicit substance in their lifetime or in the past month did not differ from the proportions found in 2011 or 2008. Similarly, when data were combined for all 12- to 17-year-olds, there was no change in the proportion of students using any illicit substance in their lifetime or in the month before the survey between 2008 and 2014 or between 2011 and 2014.

6.16 Change in the use of any illicit substance excluding cannabis

Cannabis was the most commonly used illicit substance among secondary school students and trends in its use tend to drive trends in the use of 'any illicit substance'. Therefore, the above analyses were repeated using an index of illicit substance use that excluded cannabis. The proportion of students who had used any illicit substance other than cannabis in their lifetime or in the prior month in 2008, 2011 and 2014 are shown in the lower section of Table 6.25.

The proportion of students ever using any illicit substance other than cannabis (6%) was lower than when the index of substance use included cannabis (15%).

Among 12- to 15-year-olds, the proportion of students who had used any illicit substance other than cannabis in their lifetime or past month decreased significantly between 2008 and 2014 ($p<0.01$) and between 2011 and 2014 ($p<0.01$). These changes were driven by significant decreases among male students.

For the older students when data were combined across males and females, the 2014 proportions for lifetime and past month use of any illicit substance other than cannabis did not differ significantly from proportions found in 2008 or 2011.

6.17 Poly-substance use

Students who had used tranquilisers, cannabis, amphetamines, hallucinogens and ecstasy in the previous year were asked to indicate other substances they had used concurrently with these substances. Students could indicate a substance from a list of seven, along with a

response indicating that no other substance was used. Students could give multiple responses and also indicate other substances that were not listed.

The proportion of students using tranquilisers, cannabis, amphetamines, hallucinogens and ecstasy in the past year indicating they had used any alcohol, tobacco, cannabis, hallucinogens amphetamines, ecstasy, analgesics or tranquilisers on the same occasion is shown in Table 6.28.

Table 6.28: Percentage of students who had used tranquilisers, cannabis, amphetamines, hallucinogens or ecstasy in the past 12 months indicating they had used other substances on the same occasion, Australia, 2014#

Substance used on same occasion	Substance used in the past year				
	Tranquilisers (n=2600) %	Cannabis (n=2673) %	Amphetamines (n=413) %	Hallucinogens (n=480) %	Ecstasy (n=514) %
Alcohol	12.8	55.9	50.3	45.9	62.7
Tobacco	9.4	41.2	40.1	35.6	46.4
Cannabis	11.2	N/A^^	42.8	47.3	45.6
Hallucinogens	2.9	8.0	15.2	N/A^^	13.7
Amphetamines	2.6	5.4	N/A^^	11.1	14.1
Ecstasy	2.9	8.5	25.6	15.4	N/A^^
Analgesics	17.1	6.8	10.2	8.5	6.0
Tranquilisers	N/A^^	2.5	6.1	4.7	3.8
No other substance used	69.4	33.6	24.6	27.4	20.4

^^N/A = not applicable.

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

Use of tranquilisers shows a different pattern of 'substances used on the same occasion', compared to that found for cannabis, amphetamines, hallucinogens and ecstasy. Over two thirds of students using tranquilisers did not use any other substance on the same occasion. This may reflect that most students using tranquilisers are using them under their parents' supervision. However, of students who used tranquilisers in the past year, around 13% used alcohol, 11% used cannabis and nine per cent used tobacco on the same occasion.

Alcohol and tobacco were the two substances most commonly used in conjunction with cannabis, amphetamines, hallucinogens and ecstasy.

Of past year ecstasy users, 46% reported use of cannabis on the same occasion. Use of hallucinogens on the same occasion as ecstasy use was around 14%.

Around one fourth of amphetamine users reported using ecstasy on the same occasion and 15% reported hallucinogen use.

Of students who used hallucinogens in the past year, around 15% used ecstasy and 11% used amphetamines on the same occasion.

7 Comparisons of the types of substances used by students in 2014

This report has presented prevalence estimates for each substance separately. The next section presents the relative levels of lifetime and past month use of the different substances in order to highlight the substances most commonly used by school students aged 12 to 17 years. Lifetime use provides an indication of the extent to which students have had contact with the substance, and the extent to which the substance may have been used in the past, even though they may no longer be using it. Past month use gives an indication of the recency of use and suggests current access to, and involvement with, the substance.

Figure 7.1 shows the percentage of students in the three age groups (12-13; 14-15; 16-17) who had ever used any licit or illicit substance. The most common substances used by secondary school students of all ages are legal substances: analgesics, alcohol and tobacco. Over 90% of students in each of the three age groups had used analgesics. The second most widely used substance was alcohol, with use increasing with age. Tobacco was the third most common substance and use increased as students moved through secondary school.

The unique pattern in use of inhalants is demonstrated in Figure 7.1, with use of this substance decreasing with age. While 19% of 12- to 13 year-olds had ever used inhalants this decreased to 12% of 16- and 17-year-olds.

Cannabis was the most commonly used illicit substance with use increasing with age. Ecstasy, hallucinogens and amphetamines were the next most commonly used illicit substances and again use increased with age. Experience with opiates, cocaine and performance or image enhancing drugs was rare across all age groups.

The percentage of students in the three age groups ever using each of the substances in Figure 7.1 is shown in Appendix 5, Table 5A 1 for 2014. For interest, the corresponding percentages found in the 2011 survey are also shown in this table.

The proportion of students in the three age groups who had used any of the licit and illicit substances in the month prior to the survey is shown in Figure 7.2. Similar patterns of use are seen in FFigure 7.2 as shown in Figure 7.1.

Figure 7.1: Percentage of students in three age groups who had ever used any licit or illicit substance, Australia, 2014

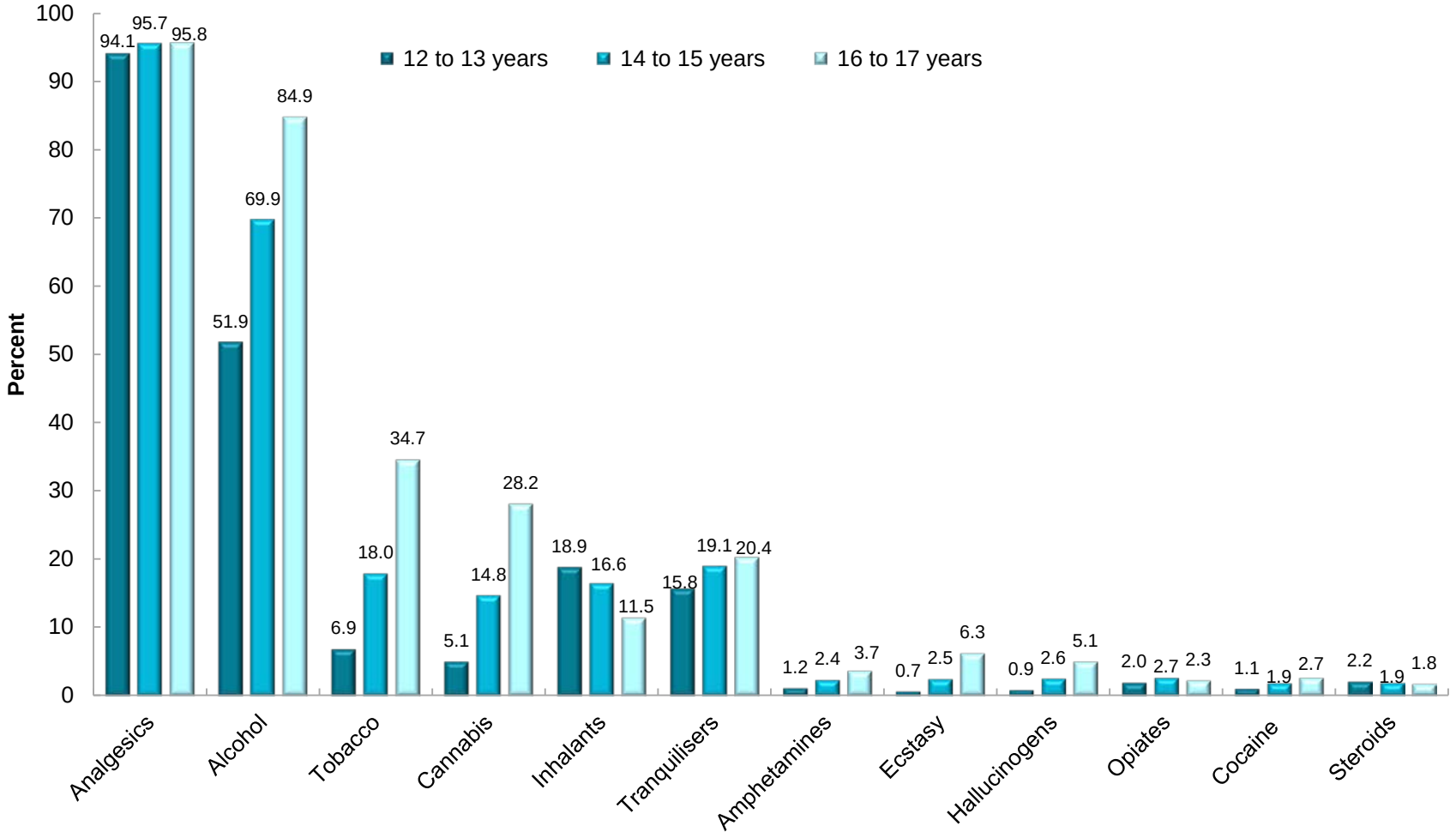
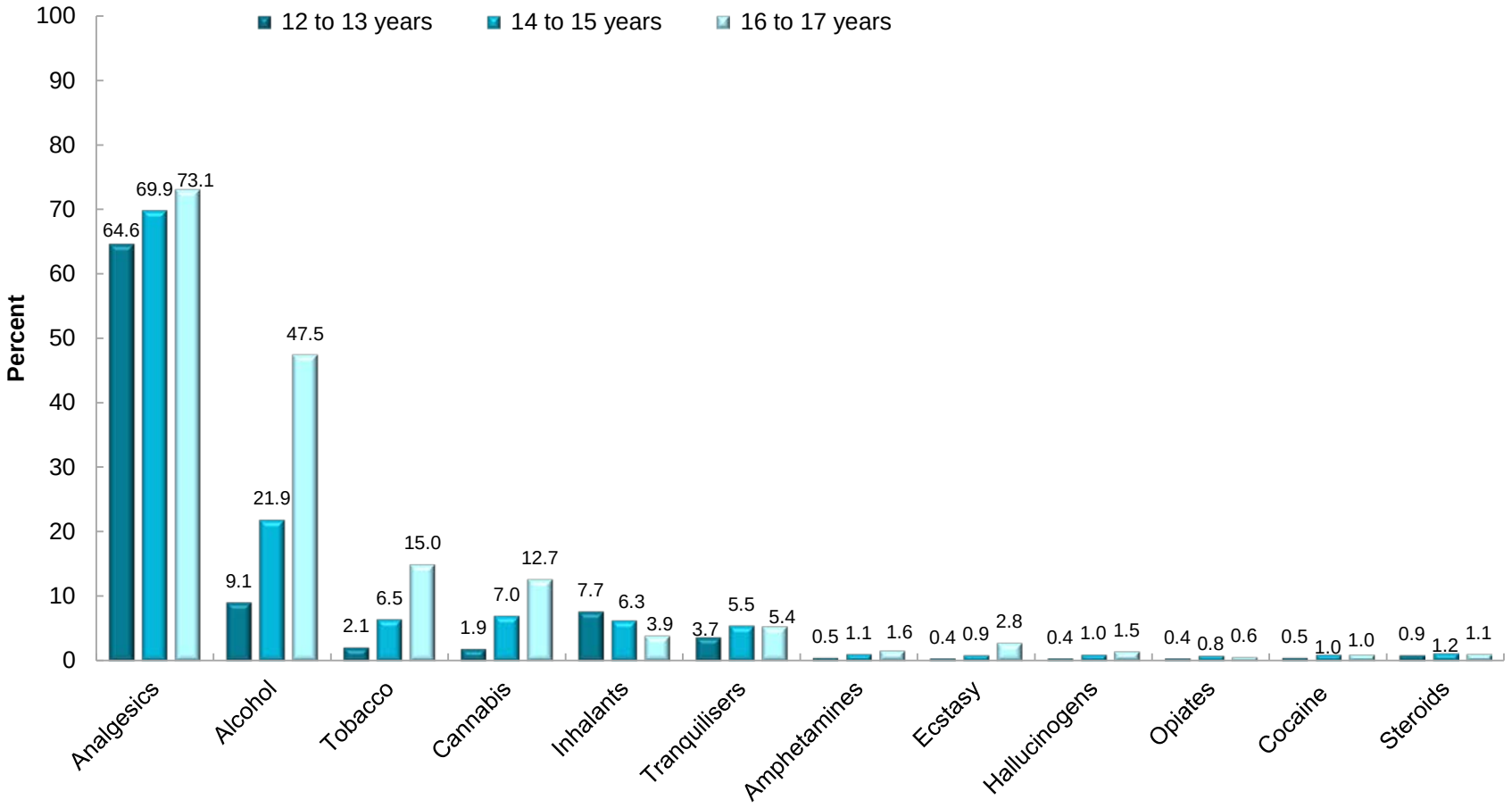


Figure 7.2: Percentage of students in three age groups who had used any licit or illicit substance in the past month, Australia, 2014



The most common substances used in the month prior to the survey by secondary school students of all ages are legal substances: analgesics, alcohol and tobacco. Over 60% of students in each of the three age groups had used analgesics in the month prior to the survey.

Alcohol was the second most common substance used in the past month, with use increasing with age. Similar to lifetime use, tobacco was the third most common substance used in the past month followed by cannabis.

Use of illicit substances in the past month was very low for all age groups.

Appendix 5, Table 5A 2, shows the percentage of students in the three age groups using each of the substances in the previous month for 2014. For interest, the corresponding percentages from the 2011 survey are also shown in this table.

8 Lessons about Tobacco, Alcohol and Illicit Substances in the Previous School Year

Students were asked to indicate if they recalled receiving any lessons on the use of tobacco, alcohol and illicit drugs in the previous school year (2013). The proportion of students recalling that they received more than one lesson about tobacco, alcohol and illicit drug use in the previous school year is shown in Table 8.1.

Table 8.1: Percentage of students indicating they had received more than one lesson about the use of illicit substances in the previous school year (2013), by current age, Australia, 2014

	Age (years)						
	12 (%)	13 (%)	14 (%)	15 (%)	16 (%)	17 (%)	12-17 (%)
Tobacco							
More than one lesson	29.6	36.9	49.0	53.0	42.7	34.4	41.3
Alcohol							
More than one lesson	30.8	38.6	56.7	66.0	59.9	51.3	50.5
Illicit substances							
More than one lesson	16.8	24.8	44.2	56.7	52.0	41.1	39.2

Just over two fifths of all students indicated that they had received more than one lesson about tobacco in the previous school year (2013). Reports on lessons about tobacco use in the previous year were highest among 14-, 15- and 16-year-olds suggesting Years 8 to 10 were the year levels when lessons about tobacco occur.

Around half of all students indicated they had received more than one lesson about alcohol in the previous school year (2013). Reports on lessons about alcohol use were highest (over 50%) among students aged 14-, 15-, 16- and 17-years suggesting that these lessons most commonly occur in Years 8 to 11.

Just under two fifths of all students indicated they had received more than one lesson about illicit substances in the previous school year (2013). Lessons about illicit substances were more commonly reported by 14-, 15- and 16-year-olds again suggesting that Years 8 to 10 were most frequently used for these lessons.

These findings indicate that schools participating in this survey were most likely to include lessons about licit and illicit substances in the curriculum of students in the middle secondary years.

9 Use of health services for alcohol use, drug use, emotional problems or behavioural problems

The 2014 study included questions assessing students' reports of being diagnosed or told they have a mental health condition and use of different treatment services for alcohol use, drug use, emotional or behavioural problems. The inclusion of these questions provides information on how students access health professionals for substance use and emotional or behavioural problems. Table 9.1 shows the proportion of students in each age and sex group reporting that they have ever been diagnosed or told by a doctor or nurse that they have a mental health condition.

Table 9.1: Percentage of students indicating they have ever been diagnosed or told by a doctor or nurse that they have a mental health condition, by age and sex, Australia, 2014[#]

	Age (years)						
	12 (%)	13 (%)	14 (%)	15 (%)	16 (%)	17 (%)	12-17 (%)
Yes							
Males	3.3	4.9	6.5	6.8	7.6	9.6	6.3
Females	4.2	5.6	8.8	13.2	16.4	17.3	10.6
Total	3.7	5.3	7.6	10.0	12.0	13.4	8.4
No							
Males	81.5	80.1	78.9	79.5	81.7	81.0	80.4
Females	79.6	77.9	76.3	74.2	73.3	72.1	75.7
Total	80.6	79.0	77.6	76.9	77.5	76.6	78.1
Don't know							
Males	15.2	15.0	14.6	13.7	10.7	9.4	13.3
Females	16.2	16.5	14.9	12.6	10.3	10.6	13.7
Total	15.7	15.7	14.8	13.1	10.5	10.0	13.5

 # Prevalence estimates are within ±3.2 of population values (see section 2.6). See Appendix 4 for 95% confidence interval estimates for different percentages for each age and sex group.

While the majority (78%) of students had not been diagnosed or told by a doctor or nurse that they had a mental health condition, eight per cent had been.

The proportion of students reporting that they have ever been diagnosed or told by a doctor or nurse that they have a mental health condition increased with age ($p<0.01$), from four per cent of 12-year-olds to 13% of 17-year-olds.

Fifteen, 16- and 17-year-old females were more likely than same aged males to report being diagnosed or told by a doctor or nurse that they have a mental health condition ($p<0.01$). Additionally when data were combined for all 12- to 17-year-

olds a greater proportion of females (11%) than males (6%) reported a mental health condition (p<0.01).

Table 9.2 shows the proportion of students in each age and sex group who reported that they had seen a health professional in the past 12 months because of any alcohol use, drug use, emotional problems or behavioural problems.

Table 9.2: Percentage of students seeing a health professional in the past 12 months for any alcohol use, drug use, emotional problems or behavioural problems, by age and sex, Australia 2014

	Age (years)						
	12 (%)	13 (%)	14 (%)	15 (%)	16 (%)	17 (%)	12-17 (%)
No, I have not seen a health professional for these reasons							
Males	96.9	95.2	94.6	93.1	93.8	90.8	94.2
Females	92.2	92.7	88.4	84.1	81.8	83.0	87.1
Total	94.6	93.9	91.5	88.6	87.8	86.9	90.7
Yes, for alcohol and/or drug related problems							
Males	0	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.4
Females	0	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.1	0.3	0.3
Total	0	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.5	0.3
Yes, for emotional and/or behavioural problems							
Males	2.5	3.7	4.3	5.8	5.2	7.7	4.8
Females	7.3	6.8	10.7	14.7	17.4	15.7	12.0
Total	4.9	5.2	7.5	10.2	11.3	11.7	8.4
Yes, for alcohol and/or drug related problems and also emotional and/or behavioural problems							
Males	0.7	0.8	0.6	0.7	0.5	0.8	0.7
Females	0.5	0.3	0.5	0.7	0.8	1.0	0.6
Total	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.6	0.9	0.6

Around 91% of all students had not seen a health professional because of any alcohol use, drug use, emotional problems or behavioural problems in the past 12 months (Table 9.2). The proportion of students selecting this response decreased with age, from 95% of 12-year-olds to 87% of 17-year-olds (p<0.01). Males were more likely than females to report they had not seen a health professional in the last 12 months because of any alcohol use, drug use, emotional problems or behavioural problems (p<0.01).

The proportion of students reporting that they had seen a health professional for alcohol or drug related problems was extremely low (0.3%) as was the proportion reporting they had seen a health professional for alcohol or drug related problems and also emotional problems or behavioural problems (0.6%).

Around eight per cent of all students reported that they had seen a health professional in the past 12 months for emotional or behavioural problems. The proportion reporting this option increased with age (p<0.01) and peaked at 12% for

17-year-olds. At each age, females were significantly more likely than males to report they had seen a health professional for emotional or behavioural problems ($p<0.01$).

Students indicating that they saw a health professional were asked to indicate the type of health professional seen in the past 12 months. Students were able to indicate more than one type of health professional. Most commonly students saw only one type of health professional (43%) with another 26% seeing two types of health professionals (see Table 9.3).

Table 9.3: Of students seeing a health professional for alcohol use, drug use, emotional problems or behavioural problems in the past 12 months, percentage seeing different numbers of health professionals by age group and sex, Australia, 2014

Number of health professionals seen	12 to 15 years			16 to 17 years			12 to 17 years		
	Males (n=3960) %	Females (n=8050) %	Total (n=12010) %	Males (n=2380) %	Females (n=5820) %	Total (n=8200) %	Males (n=6340) %	Females (n=13870) %	Total (n=20210) %
One	57.5	42.5	47.5	53.4	28.9	36.0	56.0	36.8	42.8
Two	19.6	27.3	24.8	22.6	29.5	27.5	20.7	28.2	25.9
Three	10.4	15.1	13.6	10.7	21.8	18.6	10.5	17.9	15.6
Four or more	12.4	15.1	14.1	13.4	19.7	17.8	12.8	17.0	15.7

A significant association was found between the number of health professionals seen and sex, with females more likely than males to report seeing more than one health professional in the past 12 months.

Table 9.4 shows the types of health professionals seen by students who had seen a health professional in the past 12 months. For reporting purposes the following individual response categories were combined: GP/ Paediatrician; psychologist/counsellor/family therapist; and other health professional and unsure of profession. Students indicating they saw more than one health professional are included in the proportions reported in Table 9.4.

Table 9.4: Health profession seen in the past 12 months for alcohol or drug use, or emotional or behavioural problems^, by age group and sex, Australia, 2014 (multiple responses allowed)

Health professional	12 to 15 years			16 to 17 years			12 to 17 years		
	Males(%)	Females(%)	Total(%)	Males(%)	Females(%)	Total(%)	Males(%)	Females(%)	Total(%)
General Practitioner/GP/ Paediatrician	35.7	38.8	37.8	45.5	62.2	57.4	39.4	48.6	45.7
Psychiatrist	19.4	17.9	18.4	18.7	22.3	21.3	19.1	19.8	19.6
Psychologist/ Counsellor or Family Therapist	72.2	85.3	81.0	66.2	93.8	85.8	69.9	88.9	82.9
School Nurse/ School Counsellor	28.0	39.2	35.5	32.8	40.9	38.5	29.8	39.9	36.7

Health professional	12 to 15 years			16 to 17 years			12 to 17 years		
	Males(%)	Females(%)	Total(%)	Males(%)	Females(%)	Total(%)	Males(%)	Females(%)	Total(%)
Social Worker	9.4	13.7	12.2	10.7	13.4	12.6	9.9	13.5	12.4
Other Health Professional/ Unsure of profession	22.5	17.1	18.9	17.0	12.3	13.7	20.5	15.1	16.8

^ Percentages do not equal 100% as multiple responses were allowed.

The majority of students who had seen a health professional because of any alcohol use, drug use, emotional or behavioural problems in the past 12 months reported seeing a psychologist/counsellor or family therapist (83%). Around 46% reported seeing a general practitioner (GP) or paediatrician and 37% reported seeing a school nurse/school counsellor.

Table 9.5 shows the proportion of students in each age and sex group reporting the location of the health professional seen most often because of any alcohol use, drug use, emotional problems or behavioural problems.

Table 9.5: Location for seeing health professionals for alcohol or drug use, or emotional or behavioural problems^, by age group and sex, Australia, 2014

Location of health professional	12 to 15 years			16 to 17 years			12 to 17 years		
	Males (%)	Females (%)	Total (%)	Males (%)	Females (%)	Total (%)	Males (%)	Females (%)	Total (%)
At school	25.0	24.7	24.8	22.3	22.0	22.1	24.0	23.6	23.7
Doctor's room or other private practice	40.4	39.9	40.1	41.9	47.5	45.7	41.0	43.0	42.3
Hospital department	2.9	2.2	2.5	3.6	0.9	1.8	3.2	1.7	2.2
Child, Adolescent or Youth Mental Health Service	2.5	5.9	4.7	7.7	5.1	6.0	4.4	5.6	5.2
Headspace Centre	5.2	6.1	5.8	5.2	8.4	7.3	5.2	7.0	6.4
Other service	23.9	21.2	22.2	19.2	16.1	17.1	22.2	19.1	20.2

^ Students reporting more than one location of health professional excluded from analyses.

Around 42% of students reported doctor's rooms or other private practice as the location where they saw their health professional most often for any alcohol use, drug use, emotional problems or behavioural problems. Almost one quarter (24%) of students reported seeing a health professional at school.

Table 9.6 shows the proportion of male and female students who had and had not been told they had a mental health condition reporting to have ever used analgesics, tobacco, alcohol and any of the illicit substances assessed in the earlier part of the survey. Students reporting that they did not know or were unsure if they had been told they had a mental health condition were excluded from this analysis.

Table 9.6: Substance use among male and female students who had and had not been diagnosed with mental health condition[#], by sex, Australia, 2014

Ever used in lifetime	Males		Females		All students	
	Yes (n=715) %	No (n=9122) %	Yes (n=1177) %	No (n=8382) %	Yes (n=1892) %	No (n=17504) %
Analgesics	93.5	93.5	98.1	97.3	96.4	95.3
Alcohol	80.3	67.2	87.5	65.0	84.8	66.1
Tobacco	34.1	16.7	45.2	15.5	41.0	16.1
Cannabis	34.1	15.7	31.4	11.5	32.4	13.7
Inhalants	22.5	13.8	23.2	14.0	22.9	13.9
Tranquilisers	32.3	15.0	43.5	14.9	39.3	14.9
Amphetamines	9.5	2.0	5.0	1.2	6.7	1.7
Hallucinogens	12.0	2.6	7.0	1.4	8.8	2.0
Ecstasy	11.1	3.2	6.7	1.6	8.3	2.4
Opiates	5.9	1.2	3.6	0.8	4.5	1.0
Cocaine	7.6	1.9	3.3	0.8	4.9	1.4
Performance or image enhancing drugs	8.7	1.9	4.7	1.3	6.2	1.6

 # Students who reported "don't know" have been excluded from this analysis.

For both males and females, the proportions reporting ever use of analgesics was similar irrespective of having been diagnosed with mental health condition or not.

All other substances showed a consistent pattern where students reporting that they had been told by a doctor or nurse that they have a mental health condition were more likely to report ever using tobacco, alcohol and illicit substances than students reporting no to this question ($p<0.01$).

Appendix 1: National questionnaire – Example from Northern Territory

If you would like to obtain a copy of the questionnaire, please email National Drug Strategy or Centre for Behavioural Research in Cancer for assistance.

nationaldrugstrategy@health.gov

CBRC.Mailbox@cancervic.org.au

Appendix 2: Data matters

Coding and editing of data

Following procedures established for the earlier surveys in this series, cleaning of data relating to all substance use questions involved checking for inconsistencies in reported use of substances across time periods (lifetime, past year, past month and past week). This cleaning procedure ensured maximum use of the data and operated on the principle that the participant's response about personal use in the most recent time period was accurate. Cleaning involved checking that the response for the most recent time period was consistent with the response for subsequent time periods. If responses for other time periods were missing or inconsistent with the response for the most recent time period, responses were recoded to indicate use that matched 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 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. This change was considered appropriate as using a substance in the past week and past month necessitates that it was used in the past year. However, if respondents indicated that they did not use a substance in the past week and the response for use in the past month was missing or yes, these responses were not changed, as it is possible for someone who did not use a substance in the past week to have used it in the past month. The missing response was retained, as it could not be determined whether or not the student had used the substance. If students indicated that they had used a substance in the past week, month or year, but indicated 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, no change was made to their response indicating how they see their own substance use behaviour, as this question was aimed to assess self-perception only. As in previous survey years, the impact of these sorts of recodes on the data set was minimal, with around three to four per cent of data recoded.

Data analyses details

Logistic regression analyses were used to examine whether the proportions of students in 2014 who had used each of the different substances within different time periods (e.g. lifetime, past month, past week) were different from the proportions found in 2011 and 2008. For these analyses students were grouped into the age groups: 12- to 15-year-olds, 16- and 17-year-olds and 12- to 17-year-olds; and the proportions of all students, and male and female students using substances in each survey year were examined. In these analyses, the outcome variable was binary coded, with 1 indicating that the behaviour was engaged in and 0 indicating the behaviour did not occur. Age (within each of the two age groups), school type (government, Catholic and independent), state/territory and, where appropriate, sex were entered into the analyses first. Year of survey was entered as a categorical variable, and a χ^2 value associated with the main effect of year was estimated.

Because this study used a two-stage sampling procedure, the sample was less efficient than a simple random sample of the same size. As students within the sample were clustered by school standard errors for prevalence estimates may have been underestimated. Procedures within the statistical package STATA accommodate complex sample designs within analytic procedures by adjusting for the clustering of observations. STATA was used for analyses comparing prevalence estimates across survey years and standard errors robust to potential non-independence within subjects obtained.

Appendix 3: Enrolment data

Table 3A 1: Number of 12- to 17-year-old full-time students enrolled in Australian secondary schools by age, sex and education sector#

	Age (years)						
	12	13	14	15	16	17	12-17
Government							
Males	88,561	85,139	86,776	87,332	81,498	61,967	491,273
Females	81,651	78,821	80,194	81,045	77,689	60,621	460,021
Total	170,212	163,960	166,970	168,377	159,187	122,588	951,294
Catholic							
Males	31,076	33,166	32,494	31,557	29,212	23,603	181,108
Females	30,639	32,435	32,522	31,084	29,045	24,067	179,792
Total	61,715	65,601	65,016	62,641	58,257	47,670	360,900
Independent							
Males	23,246	25,722	25,944	25,180	24,001	19,885	143,978
Females	23,327	25,482	25,580	25,405	24,118	19,807	143,719
Total	46,573	51,204	51,524	50,585	48,119	39,692	287,697

 # Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics. 2014. 4221.0 - Schools, Australia, 2014 (Latest issue released 3/2/2015). NSSC Table 40a Full-time 4: Australia. Available from: http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/4221.0.

Appendix 4: 95% confidence intervals

95% confidence intervals associated with different estimates for sex and age sample sizes achieved in the 2014 ASSAD study.

Table 4A 1: 95% confidence intervals for sample sizes achieved in ASSAD 2014 for males and females in each age group for proportions: 90/10; 80/20; 70/30; 60/40; 50/50

Malesales						
Age (years)	N	90/10	80/20	70/30	60/40	50/50
12	956	1.90	2.54	2.90	3.11	3.17
13	2181	1.26	1.68	1.92	2.06	2.10
14	2354	1.21	1.62	1.85	1.98	2.02
15	2142	1.27	1.69	1.94	2.07	2.12
16	1930	1.34	1.78	2.04	2.19	2.23
17	1431	1.55	2.07	2.37	2.54	2.59
12-17	10994	0.56	0.75	0.86	0.92	0.93
Females						
Age(years)	N	90/10	80/20	70/30	60/40	50/50
12	1082	1.79	2.38	2.73	2.92	2.98
13	2384	1.20	1.61	1.84	1.97	2.01
14	2345	1.21	1.62	1.85	1.98	2.02
15	2133	1.27	1.70	1.94	2.08	2.12
16	2342	1.22	1.62	1.86	1.98	2.03
17	1727	1.41	1.89	2.16	2.31	2.36
12-17	12013	0.54	0.72	0.82	0.88	0.89

Appendix 5: Substances used by secondary students in 2011 and 2014

Table 5A 1: Percentage of students ever using each different licit and illicit substance in 2014 and 2011 in three age groups (12–13-year-olds; 14–15-year-olds and 16–17-year-olds), Australia

Ever used in lifetime	2014 12–13 (%)	2014 14–15 (%)	2014 16–17 (%)	2011 12–13 (%)	2011 14–15 (%)	2011 16–17 (%)
Analgesics	94	96	96	95	97	97
Alcohol	52	70	85	58	77	89
Tobacco	7	18	35	10	23	39
Cannabis	5	15	28	5	14	27
Inhalants	19	17	12	21	18	13
Tranquilisers	16	19	20	14	18	19
Amphetamines	1	2	4	1	3	5
Hallucinogens	1	3	5	1	3	6
Ecstasy	1	3	6	1	3	5
Opiates	1	2	2	2	2	1
Cocaine	1	2	3	1	2	2
Performance or image enhancing drugs	2	3	2	2	2	2

Table 5A 2: Percentage of students using each licit and illicit substance in the past month in 2014 and 2011 in three age groups (12–13-year-olds; 14–15-year-olds and 16–17-year-olds), Australia

Used in past month	2014 12–13 (%)	2014 14–15 (%)	2014 16–17 (%)	2011 12–13 (%)	2011 14–15 (%)	2011 16–17 (%)
Analgesics	65	70	73	64	71	73
Alcohol	9	22	48	11	28	53
Tobacco	2	7	15	3	8	17
Cannabis	2	7	13	2	7	13
Inhalants	8	6	4	10	7	4
Tranquilisers	4	6	5	3	5	5
Amphetamines	1	1	2	0	1	2
Hallucinogens	0	1	2	0	1	2
Ecstasy	0	1	3	0	1	2
Opiates	0	1	1	1	0	1
Cocaine	1	1	1	0	1	1

Used in past month	2014			2011		
	12–13 (%)	14–15 (%)	16–17 (%)	12–13 (%)	14–15 (%)	16–17 (%)
Performance or image enhancing drugs	1	1	1	1	1	1

Appendix 6: Usual brand of cigarettes smoked by all current smokers indicating a brand (multiple responses included)

Table 6A 1 shows the proportion of all current smokers (including those who indicated they smoked more than one brand) reporting that they smoked different brands of cigarettes. The order of popularity of the different brands (as judged by the number of students smoking each brand) is the same as reported in Table 3.4. The most popular brands of cigarettes for 12- to 17-year-old current smokers were Winfield (41%), JPS (26%), Peter Jackson (15%), Longbeach (13%) and Marlboro (11%).

Table 6A 1: Usual cigarette brands smoked by students who had smoked in the previous seven days#, by age group and sex, Australia, 2014 (multiple responses allowed)

Brand	12 to 15 years			16 to 17 years			12 to 17 years		
	Males(n=180) %	Females(n=211)%	Total (n=391) %	Males (n=358) %	Females (n=277) %	Total (n=634) %	Males (n=538) %	Females (n=487) %	Total (n=1025) %
Winfield	43.7	34.2	38.6	49.3	34.5	42.9	47.4	34.4	41.2
JPS	26.9	27.5	27.2	26.2	24.5	25.4	26.4	25.8	26.1
Peter Jackson	16.3	18.1	17.3	13.5	13.7	13.6	14.4	15.6	15.0
Longbeach	17.9	14.1	15.9	12.7	9.6	11.4	14.5	11.6	13.1
Marlboro	8.7	6.4	7.5	14.8	9.7	12.6	12.7	8.3	10.6
Bond St	8.8	7.5	8.1	11.1	9.0	10.1	10.3	8.3	9.4
Benson & Hedges	6.0	4.8	5.3	7.5	7.2	7.3	7.0	6.1	6.6
Horizon	12.9	9.2	10.9	6.3	6.9	6.5	8.5	7.9	6.8
Holiday	5.2	6.8	6.0	6.1	8.8	7.3	5.8	7.9	6.8
Just Smokes	5.8	5.3	5.5	3.0	4.4	3.6	3.9	4.8	4.3
Alpine	1.7	3.7	2.7	2.1	0.9	1.6	1.9	2.1	2.0
Dunhill	6.2	1.1	3.4	4.0	1.5	2.9	4.7	1.3	3.1

 # Percentages based on students who had smoked in the past seven days.

Appendix 7: Smoking prevalence when data are weighted by age and sex within year level within education sector and state

In this Appendix, prevalence estimates for smoking in different recency periods are reported for the 2014 data when the weighting factor used for the survey considered the distribution of age and sex within year levels within each education sector and state. Prevalence estimates for each age and sex group when data are weighted by age and sex within year level, education sector and state are shown in Table 7A 1 and are very similar to those shown in Table 3.1. The method used to weight survey data developed and used in our previous surveys is appropriate for estimating smoking prevalence in 2014.

Table 7A 2 shows trends in smoking prevalence for 12- to 15-year-olds, 16- and 17-year-olds and 12- to 17-year-olds in different recency periods. Data from 2008, 2011 and 2014 are all weighted for the distribution of sex and age within year level within education section and state. The estimates shown for each year are generally very similar to those reported in Table 3.3 in this document. Logistic regression analyses examined whether the prevalence of smoking in the different recency periods for each age and sex group in 2014 differed significantly from estimates reported for 2011 and 2008. In general the differences found were similar to those reported in Table 3.3. This analysis confirms the significant decrease in smoking prevalence for 12- to 15-year-olds and 12- to 17-year-olds between 2014 and 2011.

Table 7A 1: Lifetime experience and current cigarette smoking when data are weighted by age and sex within year level and education sector and state, by age and sex, Australia, 2014

	Age (years)						
	12 (%)	13 (%)	14 (%)	15 (%)	16 (%)	17 (%)	12-17 (%)
Never smoked							
Males	92.7	90.1	86.8	77.5	70.8	61.4	80.6
Females	95.0	90.9	84.0	74.8	66.2	57.1	78.6
Total	93.9	90.5	85.4	76.2	68.5	59.3	79.6
More than 100 cigarettes in lifetime							
Males	0.6	0.7	1.0	2.6	5.6	10.7	3.2
Females	0.1	0.2	1.6	3.1	4.2	6.7	2.5
Total	0.3	0.4	1.3	2.8	4.9	8.7	2.9
Past year							
Males	3.5	5.8	8.5	15.9	21.4	29.1	13.5
Females	2.9	6.8	11.7	18.7	25.9	33.5	16.1

	Age (years)						
	12 (%)	13 (%)	14 (%)	15 (%)	16 (%)	17 (%)	12-17 (%)
Total	3.2	6.3	10.0	17.3	23.7	31.3	14.8
Past month							
Males	1.3	2.9	3.5	7.4	14.2	18.3	7.6
Females	1.9	3.1	6.4	9.1	13.0	16.7	8.1
Total	1.6	3.0	4.9	8.2	13.6	17.5	7.8
Current smokers (smoked in past seven days)							
Males	1.3	1.8	2.7	5.3	10.3	14.7	5.7
Females	1.0	2.1	4.4	6.5	7.9	11.9	5.4
Total	1.1	2.0	3.5	5.9	9.1	13.3	5.5
Committed smokers (3+ days in past 7 days)							
Males	1.0	0.9	1.3	2.6	5.5	9.6	3.2
Females	0.1	1.0	2.1	3.9	3.8	5.5	2.7
Total	0.5	1.0	1.7	3.2	4.7	7.6	2.9
Estimated number of current smokers^^							
Males	1392	2539	3724	7070	13103	13961	41789
Females	1047	2814	5924	8662	9786	11275	39508
Total	2439	5353	9648	15732	22889	25236	81297

^^ Estimated number of current smokers is extrapolated from survey findings to population level based on weights used for analyses.

Table 7A 2: Percentage of students involved with tobacco use at different levels in 2008, 2011 and 2014 when data are weighted for age and sex within year level within education sector and state, by age group and sex, Australia

Recency period	12 to 15 years			16 to 17 years			12 to 17 years		
	2008 (%)	2011 (%)	2014 (%)	2008 (%)	2011 (%)	2014 (%)	2008 (%)	2011 (%)	2014 (%)
Lifetime									
Males	23.3**	18.3**	13.5	43.5**	39.7**	33.2	29.0**	24.7**	19.4
Females	22.4**	16.7	14.3	44.1	39.0	37.7	28.8**	23.5	21.4
Total	22.9**	17.5**	13.9	43.8**	39.3	35.4	28.9**	24.1**	20.4
Smoked at least 100 cigarettes in lifetime									
Males	2.6**	2.2	1.2	9.0	8.9	7.8	4.4**	4.2	3.2
Females	2.4**	1.9	1.3	7.5	7.1	5.3	3.9**	3.5	2.5
Total	2.5**	2.1**	1.3	8.2	7.9	6.5	4.1**	3.9**	2.9
Past month									

Recency period	12 to 15 years			16 to 17 years			12 to 17 years		
	2008 (%)	2011 (%)	2014 (%)	2008 (%)	2011 (%)	2014 (%)	2008 (%)	2011 (%)	2014 (%)
Males	7.4**	6.0**	3.9	18.1	17.7	15.9	10.4**	9.6**	7.6
Females	8.9**	6.2	5.3	17.0	15.9	14.6	11.3**	9.2	8.1
Total	8.2**	6.1**	4.6	17.6	16.8	15.3	10.9**	9.4**	7.8
Current smokers (smoked in past seven days)									
Males	5.3**	4.6**	2.8	13.5	12.9	12.2	7.6**	7.1	5.7
Females	6.3**	4.4	3.6	12.5	12.1	9.6	8.1**	6.8	5.4
Total	5.8**	4.5**	3.2	13.0	12.5	10.9	7.9**	6.9**	5.5
Committed smokers (Smoked on 3+ days in past seven days)									
Males	3.0**	2.4	1.5	8.7	7.1	7.2	4.6**	3.8	3.2
Females	3.6**	2.6	1.8	7.6**	7.1	4.6	4.8**	3.9**	2.7
Total	3.3**	2.5**	1.7	8.1**	7.1	5.9	4.7**	3.9**	2.9
Smoked daily in past seven days									
Males	1.5**	1.2	0.7	4.1	3.7	3.6	2.2	2.0	1.5
Females	1.4**	1.2**	0.5	3.6	3.6	2.1	2.1**	1.9**	1.0
Total	1.4**	1.2**	0.6	3.8	3.6	2.9	2.1**	2.0**	1.2
Daily smokers among current smokers									
Males	27.4	27.6	23.3	30.5	28.9	29.6	28.9	28.3	27.4
Females	22.2	26.7	12.6	29.0	29.7	22.2	25.3**	28.4**	17.7
Total	24.6	27.1	17.3	29.7	29.3	26.4	27.0	28.3	22.7

*** Significantly different from 2014 at p <0.01.*

Appendix 8: Alcohol consumption prevalence when data are weighted by age and sex within year level within education sector and state

In this Appendix, prevalence estimates for drinking in different recency periods are reported for the 2014 data when the weighting factor used for the survey considered the distribution of age and sex within year levels within each education sector and state. While prevalence estimates for 12-year-olds shown in Table 8A.1 are very similar to those shown in Table 5.1, prevalence estimates for other age groups generally differ by between 1-3%. Differences were generally greatest for 15- and 16-year-olds at around 3%. In general, estimates obtained by weighting data by age and sex within year level within education sector were higher than those shown in Table 5.1. The slightly higher estimates of alcohol use for the older students may indicate that alcohol consumption is related to year level as well as student age.

Table 8A 2 shows trends in drinking prevalence for 12- to 15-year-olds, 16- and 17-year-olds and 12- to 17-year-olds in different recency periods when data from all years (2008, 2011 and 2014) are weighted for the distribution of sex and age within year level within education sector and state. Logistic regression analyses examined whether the prevalence of drinking in the different recency periods for each age and sex group in 2014 differed significantly from estimates reported for 2011 and 2008. The majority of differences found were similar to those reported in Table 5.3. The decrease in the proportion of 16- and 17-year-old students using alcohol in the past month between 2011 and 2014 was not significant when the data were weighted to adjust for age and sex within year level. When data were examined for males and females separately a few additional differences were found mainly among females. Among 16- and 17-year-old females and 12- to 17-year-old females, the difference in the proportion reporting to have consumed five or more drinks on one occasion in the past seven days (current drinkers) between 2008 and 2014 was not significant when using the weighting factor adjusting for age and sex within year level. In addition, the proportion of 16- and 17-year-old female current drinkers was not different between 2008 and 2014 when using this weighting factor.

Table 8A 1:Lifetime experience and current use of alcohol by secondary school students, when data are weighted for age and sex within year level within education sector and state, by age and sex, Australia, 2014

	Age (years)						
	12 (%)	13 (%)	14 (%)	15 (%)	16 (%)	17 (%)	12-17 (%)
Never used							
Males	49.2	39.0	32.4	26.3	17.8	12.5	29.8

	Age (years)						
	12 (%)	13 (%)	14 (%)	15 (%)	16 (%)	17 (%)	12-17 (%)
Females	55.8	43.7	31.2	20.7	14.0	9.6	29.4
Total	52.6	41.3	31.8	23.5	15.9	11.0	29.6
Past year							
Males	23.2	30.7	39.2	52.4	66.2	78.0	47.4
Females	15.8	28.2	41.5	57.5	73.3	81.6	48.9
Total	19.4	29.5	40.3	55.0	69.7	79.8	48.1
Past month							
Males	8.3	11.9	15.7	30.2	44.2	54.4	26.4
Females	6.3	12.0	20.4	29.6	47.1	57.7	27.9
Total	7.3	11.9	18.0	29.9	45.6	56.1	27.2
Current drinker (consumed alcohol in past seven days)							
Males	4.9	6.3	8.5	16.9	27.0	35.8	15.8
Females	3.5	7.2	11.6	14.1	26.6	39.0	16.2
Total	4.2	6.7	10.0	15.5	26.8	37.4	16.0
Single occasion risky drinker (drank more than 4 drinks on one day in past seven days)							
Males	1.0	0.9	2.1	5.7	11.9	21.7	6.6
Females	0.0	1.1	1.7	3.8	8.7	14.0	4.5
Total	0.5	1.0	1.9	4.8	10.3	17.9	5.6

Table 8A 2: Percentage of students with different levels of alcohol use involvement in 2008, 2011 and 2014, when data are weighted for age and sex within year level within education sector and state, by age group and sex, Australia^

Recency period	12 to 15 years			16 to 17 years			12 to 17 years		
	2008 (%)	2011 (%)	2014 (%)	2008 (%)	2011 (%)	2014 (%)	2008 (%)	2011 (%)	2014 (%)
Lifetime									
Males	80.5**	72.2**	64.0	91.7**	88.8**	84.5	83.7**	77.2**	70.2
Females	80.3**	67.5**	63.1	92.5**	90.6	87.9	83.9**	74.6**	70.6
Total	80.4**	69.8**	63.6	92.1**	89.7**	86.2	83.8**	75.9**	70.4
Past month									
Males	31.5**	21.9**	17.0	63.3**	52.7	48.6	40.4**	31.2**	26.4
Females	30.2**	20.5	17.6	59.6**	53.8	51.7	38.9**	30.7	27.9
Total	30.9**	21.2**	17.3	61.4**	53.3	50.1	39.7**	30.9**	27.2
Current drinkers (consumed alcohol in past seven days)									
Males	18.5**	13.0**	9.4	43.0**	34.1	30.7	25.3**	19.4**	15.8

Recency period	12 to 15 years			16 to 17 years			12 to 17 years		
	2008 (%)	2011 (%)	2014 (%)	2008 (%)	2011 (%)	2014 (%)	2008 (%)	2011 (%)	2014 (%)
Females	17.4**	11.1	9.4	36.0	31.2	32.0	22.9**	17.2	16.2
Total	17.9**	12.0**	9.4	39.4**	32.6	31.4	24.1**	18.3**	16.0
Consumed five or more drinks on one occasion in the past seven days –									
All students									
Males	4.8**	3.8	2.5	22.3**	18.2	16.1	9.7**	8.1	6.6
Females	4.0**	2.5	1.8	14.9	13.7	11.0	7.2**	6.0	4.5
Total	4.4**	3.2**	2.1	18.5**	15.9	13.6	8.4**	7.0	5.6
Current drinkers									
Males	25.9	29.5	26.9	52.1	53.5	52.8	38.3	42.2	42.0
Females	22.9	23.0	18.8	41.6	44.3**	34.6	31.6	34.8**	28.2
Total	24.5	26.5	22.9	47.2	49.0	43.6	35.1	38.7	35.1

*** Significantly different from 2014 at p <0.01.*

^ As of 2009, NHMRC drinking guidelines recommend that abstaining from alcohol consumption is the safest option for young people under the age of 18 years. Given this recommendation, the proportion of students who have reported to have ever had an alcoholic drink in their lifetime or to have consumed alcohol in any of the recency periods listed above reflects the proportions of students who do not adhere to this guideline.

Appendix 9: Illicit and licit substance use when data are weighted by age and sex within year level within education sector and state

In this Appendix, prevalence estimates for lifetime and past month use of each of the different illicit and licit substances asked about in the survey in 2014 and 2011 are reported when the weighting factor used considered the distribution of age and sex within year levels within each education sector and state. The data presented in this Appendix can be compared with prevalence estimates for the three age groups shown Table 5A.1 and Table 5A.2 in Appendix 5. The data in those tables and in Table 9A.1 and Table 9A.2 are very similar with differences in estimates generally small and usually within 1%. The one exception is the 2014 estimate of ever use of cannabis among 16- and 17-year-olds where the estimates differ by three per cent. However, the estimates of past month use of cannabis in the 16- and 17-year-olds are the same for the two weighting factors (see Table 9A.2 and Table 5A.2).

Table 9A 3 shows trends in students who had used any illicit substance or any illicit substance excluding cannabis for 12- to 15-year-olds, 16- and 17-year-olds and 12- to 17-year-olds in different recency periods. Data from 2008, 2011 and 2014 are all weighted for the distribution of sex and age within year level within education section and state. The estimates shown for each year are generally very similar to those reported in Table 6.27. Differences were found for estimates of lifetime use of any illicit substance for 16- and 17-year-olds and 12- to 17-year-olds with estimates in Table 9A 3 for these groups between 1.4% and 3.0% higher than estimates reported in Table 6.27. Logistic regression analyses examined whether the prevalence of any illicit substance use or any illicit substance use excluding cannabis in the different recency periods for each age and sex group in 2014 differed significantly from estimates reported for 2011 and 2008. In general the changes over time in use of any illicit substance including or excluding cannabis were similar to those reported in Table 6.27. The exception to this was for monthly use of any illicit substance excluding cannabis among 12- to 15-year-olds where the decrease in use between 2011 and 2014 was not statistically significant when data were weighted for age and sex within year level.

Table 9A 1: Percentage of students ever using each licit and illicit substance in 2014 and 2011 in three age groups (12–13-year-olds; 14–15-year-olds and 16–17-year-olds), when data are weighted for age and sex within year level within education sector and state, Australia

Ever used in lifetime	2014			2011		
	12–13 (%)	14–15 (%)	16–17 (%)	12–13 (%)	14–15 (%)	16–17 (%)
Analgesics	94	97	96	95	97	97
Cannabis	6	16	31	5	15	27
Inhalants	18	16	11	20	17	12
Tranquilisers	16	20	21	14	18	19
Amphetamines	1	2	4	2	3	5
Hallucinogens	1	2	6	1	3	5
Ecstasy	1	3	7	1	3	5
Opiates	1	1	2	2	2	2
Cocaine	1	2	3	1	2	2
Performance or image enhancing drugs	2	3	2	3	2	2

Table 9A 2: Percentage of students using the different licit and illicit substances in the past month in 2014 and 2011 in three age groups (12–13-year-olds; 14–15-year-olds and 16–17-year-olds), when data are weighted for age and sex within year level within education sector and state, Australia

Used in past month	2014			2011		
	12–13 (%)	14–15 (%)	16–17 (%)	12–13 (%)	14–15 (%)	16–17 (%)
Analgesics	66	72	74	64	72	74
Cannabis	3	8	13	2	7	12
Inhalants	8	6	4	9	6	4
Tranquilisers	4	6	6	3	5	5
Amphetamines	0	1	2	0	1	2
Hallucinogens	1	1	1	0	1	2
Ecstasy	0	1	3	0	1	2
Opiates	1	1	1	2	1	1
Cocaine	1	1	1	0	1	1
Performance or image enhancing drugs	1	1	1	1	1	1

Table 9A 3: Percentage of students who had used any illicit substance or any illicit substance excluding cannabis, in their lifetime or in the past month in 2008, 2011 and 2014, when data are weighted for age and sex within year level within education sector and state, by age group, Australia

	12 to 15 years			16 to 17 years			12 to 17 years		
	2008 (%)	2011 (%)	2014 (%)	2008 (%)	2011 (%)	2014 (%)	2008 (%)	2011 (%)	2014 (%)
Any illicit substance									
Lifetime									
Males	13.0	12.3	11.2	29.4	29.7	32.2	17.6	17.5	17.5
Females	11.7	11.0	10.2	23.7	23.5	27.3	15.3	14.8	15.3
Total	12.4	11.6	10.7	26.5	26.5	29.8	16.4	16.1	16.4
Past month									
Males	6.2	6.7	5.4	15.7	15.1	15.7	8.9	9.2	8.5
Females	5.1	5.1	4.7	10.1	10.4	9.7	6.6	6.7	6.2
Total	5.7	5.9	5.0	12.8	12.7	12.7	7.7	7.9	7.3
Any illicit substance excluding cannabis									
Lifetime									
Males	6.2**	5.9	4.3	12.7	10.8	12.9	8.0	7.4	6.9
Females	5.5**	4.8**	3.5	10.0	8.4	7.5	6.8**	5.9	4.7
Total	5.8**	5.3**	3.9	11.3	9.6	10.2	7.4**	6.6	5.8
Past month									
Males	2.8**	3.0	1.6	6.5	5.1	5.7	3.8**	3.6	2.8
Females	2.1	1.7	1.4	3.5	3.2	2.3	2.5**	2.1	1.7
Total	2.5**	2.3	1.5	5.0	4.1	4.0	3.2**	2.9	2.3

*** Significantly different from 2014 at p <0.01.*