**Drug Use Among Specific Population Groups**

### Alcohol Use

- **Pregnant women abstaining increased**
  - 2007: 40%
  - 2016: 56%

- **Improvements**
  - Those in Remote and very remote areas:
    - Less likely to exceed lifetime risk guidelines
    - ...and increased abstinance
  - 2013: 35%
  - 2016: 26%

### Recent Meth/Amphetamine Use

- **Decreased in Major cities**
  - 2013: 2.1%
  - 2016: 1.4%
- **Declined among people in the highest socioeconomic areas**
  - 2013: 1.8%
  - 2016: 0.9%

### Recent Cannabis Use

- **Declined among people living in Outer regional areas**
  - 2013: 12.0%
  - 2016: 9.3%
- **Declined in the lowest socioeconomic areas**
  - 2013: 19.9%
  - 2016: 17.7%

### Recent Ecstasy Users

- **Illicit and non-illicit drug users**
  - 2013: 17.5%
  - 2016: 22%
  - 2013: 8.6%
  - 2016: 9.7%

### Recent Cocaine Users

- 2013: 1.8%
- 2016: 0.9%

### Increases in Drug Use Were Seen Among the Following Groups

- **Increases in cocaine use were reported for:**
  - People living in Major cities
    - 2013: 2.6%
    - 2016: 3.2%
  - People living in the 4th most advantaged areas (out of 5)
    - 2013: 2.5%
    - 2016: 4.0%

- **Those experiencing high or very high levels of psychological distress, 18+**
  - Recent meth/amphetamines users
    - 2013: 27%
    - 2016: 37%
  - Recent ecstasy users
    - 2013: 18%
    - 2016: 27%

### Diagnosed with, or treated for, a mental illness, 18+

- **Recent meth/amphetamines users**
  - 2013: 29%
  - 2016: 29%
- **Recent cannabis users**
  - 2013: 42%
  - 2016: 21%
- **Recent ecstasy users**
  - 2013: 28%
  - 2016: 26%
- **Recent cocaine users**
  - 2013: 17%
  - 2016: 25%
Disparities in drug use in 2016

People in remote and very remote areas:

- 2.5 times more likely to use meth/amphetamines as those in major cities.
- Twice as likely to smoke daily as those in major cities (21% vs. 10.6%).

People in lowest socioeconomic areas:

- 2.7 times more likely to smoke daily as people in the highest socioeconomic areas.
- 1.7 times more likely to abstain from alcohol as people in the highest socioeconomic areas.
- Less likely to use cocaine and ecstasy than people in highest socioeconomic areas.

People in lowest socioeconomic areas were less likely to use cocaine and ecstasy than people in highest socioeconomic areas:

- Cocaine and Ecstasy: 1.2% vs. 3.3%.
- Ecstasy: 2.7% vs. 3.3%.
- Cocaine: 2.7% vs. 3.3%.

Unemployed as compared to employed people were:

- 1.8 times more likely to have smoked daily.
- 1.5 times more likely to have used cannabis.
- 3.1 times more likely to have used meth/amphetamines.

Homosexual/bisexual people:

- Had higher rates of illicit drug use than other population groups.
- 5.8 times more likely to use ecstasy and meth/amphetamines.

Note: Findings relate to people aged 14 or older unless specified.

All data presented in this chapter are available in the specific population group tables <http://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/illicit-use-of-drugs/ndshs-2016-detailed/data>.