Australian secondary school students' use of tobacco, alcohol, and over-the-counter and illicit substances in 2008

Report

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The 2008 Australian Secondary Students Alcohol and Drug Survey was conducted during the academic school year of 2008. This was the ninth survey in a series that commenced in 1984 assessing use of tobacco and alcohol, and the fifth to include questions on the use of over-the-counter and illicit substances. Around 24,000 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, tranquillisers and illicit substances and related behaviour. In this report we present prevalence estimates of use of the different substances in 2008 within each age between 12 and 17 years for males and females. We also compare estimates found in 2008 with those from surveys conducted in 2005 and 2002 and for these analyses we focus on estimates for the age groups 12- to 15-year-olds and 16- and 17-year-olds.

Tobacco

In 2008, around 90% of 12-year-olds had no experience with smoking and this decreased to 54% among 17-year-olds. Only 4% 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 2% among 12-year-olds to 14% among 17-year-olds. The proportion of students smoking in the previous week at age 14 (7%) was half that of those aged 17 (14%).

In 2008, the legal age for selling cigarettes in all Australian States and Territories was 18 years. Despite this, 20% of all students who smoked in the past week bought their last cigarette themselves. However, as was the case in previous surveys, the single most common source of cigarettes for adolescents who were current smokers was friends (45%).

The proportion of students who smoked in the week before the survey in 2008 was the lowest found since the survey series began. In 2008, 5% of 12- to 15-year-olds had smoked in the seven days before the survey and this was significantly lower than the 7% found in 2005 and the 11% found in 2002. In 2008, the prevalence of current smoking among 16- to 17-year-olds was 13% and this was significantly lower than the 17% found in 2005 and the 23% found in 2002.

Alcohol

Eight out of every ten Australian secondary students aged between 12 and 17 years had tried alcohol at some time in their lives and 61% had consumed alcohol in the 12 months preceding the 2008 survey. The proportion of students drinking in the seven days before the survey was around 23%. Involvement with alcohol increased with age, with the proportion of students drinking in the seven days before the survey increasing from 11% of 13-year-olds to 41% of 17-year-olds. In the week before the survey just under 20% of all 17-year-old students had consumed alcohol at risky levels (7 or more drinks a day for males, 5 or more drinks a day for females). Premixed spirits were the most preferred beverage among female current drinkers, while beer and spirits were the most preferred beverages for male current drinkers. Adolescents who consumed

alcohol in the previous seven days most commonly obtained their alcohol from their parents (34%) or friends (22%) and consumed alcohol in their own home (31%) or at a party (30%).

The proportion of students aged between 12 and 17 years drinking in 2008 was lower than levels found in 2005 and 2002. The proportion of 12- to 15-year-olds drinking in the week before the survey decreased significantly between 2002 (29%) and 2008 (17%) and between 2005 (22%) and 2008. The proportion of 16- and 17-year-olds drinking in the week before the survey in 2008 (38%) was significantly lower than the proportion found in 2005 (47%) and 2002 (48%). While for both age groups, the proportion of all students drinking at risky levels in the week before the survey was lower in 2008 than in 2005 and 2002, there was no change in the proportion of current drinkers drinking at risky levels between 2002 and 2008.

Over-the-counter and illicit substances

Analgesics: Students were asked about any use of analgesics. Analgesics were the most commonly used substance (licit or illicit) among secondary school students. By the age of 12 over 90% of students had used analgesics in their lifetime. Seventy percent of secondary students had used analgesics in the four weeks prior to the survey, and 41% had used analgesics in the week prior to the survey. The main reasons for using analgesics were headaches/migraine and relief of cold and 'flu' symptoms with parents the most common source of analgesics. There was no change in the proportion of students using analgesics between 2002 and 2008.

Tranquillisers: Use of tranquillisers other than for medical reasons among students was low, with 83% of students never having used tranquillisers. Between 4% and 5% of students aged 13 and above had used tranquillisers in the month prior to the survey. While the proportion of students who had used tranquillisers in their lifetime increased between 2005 and 2008, there was no change in the proportion using these substances in the month and week before the survey between 2002 and 2008.

Cannabis: Cannabis was the most commonly used illicit substance among secondary school students, with 14% of all secondary school students aged between 12 and 17 years reporting the use of cannabis at some time in their life. Cannabis use increased with age from 3% of 12-year-olds who had ever used cannabis to 26% of 17-year-olds. Six per cent of all students had used cannabis in the month prior to the survey and 4% had used it within the week before the survey. The proportion of 12- to 15-year-olds using cannabis in their lifetime, in the past month and past week in 2008 was significantly lower than in 2005 and 2002. Among 16- to 17-year-olds while lifetime use of cannabis in 2008 was significantly lower than in 2005 and 2002, use in the past month and past week in 2008 was only significantly lower than 2002.

Inhalants: Reported use of inhalants was more common among younger students than older students. While 19% of all students had ever used inhalants, ever use decreased from 23% of 12-year-olds to 14% of 17-year-olds. Recent use of inhalants also decreased with age, so that while 11% of 12-year-olds had used inhalants in the month prior to the survey, only 4% of 17-year-olds had used these substances recently. The proportion of 12- to 15-year-olds using inhalants in their lifetime and in the past month decreased between 2002 and 2008 but not between 2005 and 2008. Among 16- and 17-year-olds, significantly more students reported lifetime use and monthly use of inhalants in 2008 than in 2005, with the 2008 proportions similar to those in 2002.

Hallucinogens: Three per cent of all secondary school students reported some experience with hallucinogens. Ever use increased with age, rising from 1% of 12-year-olds to 5% of 16- and 17-year-olds. Lifetime use and past month use of hallucinogens among 12- to 15-year-olds decreased significantly between 2002 and 2008 but there was no change between 2005 and 2008. There was no change in the proportion of older students using hallucinogens between 2002 and 2008.

Amphetamines: The majority (96%) of secondary school students had never used amphetamines. By the age of 17, 7% of students reported having had some experience with amphetamines. Around 2% of students 15 years and over reported using amphetamines in the month before the survey. Among 12- to 15-year-olds, lifetime use of amphetamines and use in the past month in 2008 was significantly lower than proportions found in 2005 and 2002. Among 16- to 17-year-olds, the proportion of students reporting use of amphetamines in their lifetime in 2008 was significantly lower than the proportion found in 2002 but not 2005.

Steroids: Steroid use without a doctor's prescription was very uncommon, with around 2% of all students having ever used these substances. The proportion of 12- to 15-year-olds and 16- to 17-year-olds using steroids did not change between 2002 and 2008.

Opiates: A small proportion of students (2%) reported that they had ever used opiates such as heroin or morphine. There was a decrease in the proportion of 12- to 15-year-olds reporting to have ever used opiates between 2002 and 2008 but not between 2005 and 2008. There was no change in the proportion of 16- and 17-year-olds reporting use of opiates in their lifetime between 2002 and 2008.

Cocaine: Use of cocaine was rare among students. Only 2% of all students reported having ever used cocaine. There was a decrease in the proportion of 12- to 15-year-olds reporting cocaine use in their lifetime between both 2002 and 2008 and 2005 and 2008. However, there was no change in the proportion of older students reporting use of cocaine between 2002 and 2008.

Ecstasy: Only 4% of students had ever used ecstasy. Recent use of ecstasy was not common among any age group. Only 3-4% of students aged 16 to 17 years had used ecstasy in the month prior to the survey. The proportion of 12- to 15-year-olds who reported using ecstasy in their lifetime in 2008 was lower than the proportion found in 2002 but was not different from the proportion found in 2005. The proportion of older students reporting ecstasy use in 2008 was slightly higher than the proportion found in 2005 and this increase was significant for use in the past month.

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 secondary school students' use of substances. It was developed from a triennial national survey assessing students' use of alcohol and tobacco that was conducted collaboratively by the Cancer Councils across Australia commencing in 1984. 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 secondary school students and to examine trends in substance use among this group.

The design of the 2008 ASSAD survey was the same as that used in previous ASSAD studies. Just over 24,000 secondary students aged 12 to 17 completed the survey in 2008, making it the largest survey of substance use among secondary students in Australia. The sample was based on secondary schools throughout Australia so adolescents who are not at school are not included in the survey.

The 2008 survey was the ninth conducted in this survey series. Previous surveys were conducted in 1984, 1987, 1990, 1993 (alcohol and tobacco only), 1996, 1999, 2002 and 2005.

2. Method

2.1 Sample selection

The target population was all students in Years 7 to 12 across Australia. Population estimates were based on the most up-to-date figures available from state and federal education departments at the time. Schools with fewer than 100 students enrolled were excluded from the study.

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 (government, Catholic and independent) and randomly selected from each sector. The sampling procedure of schools ensured that the distribution of schools in the three education sectors in each State or 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.

The study aimed to survey students from 419 schools across the country. To achieve this, 593 secondary schools were approached to take part in the study. Three hundred and eighty-six secondary schools participated in the study, giving an overall response rate for secondary schools of 65%. This was similar to the overall response rate achieved in 2005 and 2002. In Western Australia, South Australia, and Queensland Year 7 students are generally in the primary school system. In these states, the primary school associated with participating secondary schools was approached regarding the surveying of Year 7 students.

All surveying took place in the 2008 academic school year.

2.2 Procedure

Principals of selected schools were contacted and permission to conduct the survey at the school obtained. If a school refused they were replaced by the school geographically nearest to them within the same education sector. The aim was to survey 80 students from each participating school. To this end, a member of the research team randomly selected 20 students (and six replacements) from each of the four year levels in each junior school participating; while for senior schools, 40 students (and 12 replacements) were sampled from each of Years 11 and 12. The school roll for year levels to be surveyed provided the sampling frame. In New South Wales rather than selecting a random sample of students, intact classes of students were randomly selected within the required year levels. Only classes where students were not selected on any ability or performance measures 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 in a small number of schools in other states where the Principals were otherwise unable to permit participation of their school.

Following the protocol used in past surveys, members of the research team administered the pencil-and-paper questionnaire to groups of up to 20 students on the

school premises (or a class if intact classes were surveyed). If a student from the sample list was not present at the time of the survey, a student from the equivalent year level on the replacement list was surveyed (where intact classes were used, there were no replacements). Students from different year levels were surveyed together. Students answered the questionnaire anonymously. The policy of the education departments in each state and territory and the policies of individual schools decided if teachers should remain in the room when the survey was being administered. In 2008, 78% of students completed the questionnaire in the presence of teachers. If a teacher was present when the survey was being conducted, they were asked to remain at the front or back of the room and not to participate in the survey session. There was little difference in the responses of students completing the survey if a teacher was present or not. The main difference was for alcohol use among students aged 12 to 15. Students aged 12 to 15 years who did not have a teacher present when completing the survey were more likely to report consuming alcohol in the last week, month and year than those who had a teacher present. Older students were less likely to report using alcohol in the past four weeks if a teacher was present while they were completing the survey. However, when clustering of the data by school was taken into account, these differences were no longer statistically significant.

2.3 Questionnaire

In 2008, students completed a 15-page core questionnaire (see Appendix 1). The questionnaire covered the use of tobacco, alcohol, pain relievers, sedatives/tranquillisers and the use of illicit substances such as cannabis and hallucinogens. Questions assessing use of different substances were the same as those used in previous surveys in this series. While the street names of illicit substances were included in the survey, the terminology may have been unfamiliar to respondents. Where students indicated they did not know the substance, the substance name was read out and an effort was made to explain/describe the substance to them.

2.3.1 Tobacco Questions

The questions on tobacco and alcohol contained in the core questionnaire were identical to those used in the previous questionnaire. 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 brands they smoked, the usual packet size of the brand they smoked, and source of their last cigarette. If students indicated that someone else bought the cigarette for them, students 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.

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.

2.3.3 Licit and Illicit Drug Questions

The over-the-counter and illicit substances covered in the questionnaire were analgesics, sedatives, cannabis, inhalants, hallucinogens, amphetamines, steroids, 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 included in that category.

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: the past week, the past four weeks, the past year, and their lifetime. Students could choose from seven response categories ranging from 'None' to '40 or more times'. The questions concerning the use of sedatives, steroids, amphetamines and opiates explicitly asked about the non-medical use of these substances.

Students were also asked to indicate the reasons for using their last analgesic and how they obtained this analgesic. Students who had used 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, cannabis, amphetamines and hallucinogens. Students who had not used any other substance when they used cannabis, amphetamines, ecstasy and hallucinogens could indicate this response from the list.

Students who had used cannabis in the 12 months preceding the survey were asked to indicate if they usually used it by themselves, with others, or by themselves and with others about equally often. They were also asked to indicate where they usually used cannabis and how it was usually used (eg, joint, bong, as food or other).

To reduce order effects, two versions of the questionnaire were used. The first version had alcohol-related questions first; the second had smoking-related questions first. Questions regarding other drug use and drug-related attitudes always followed both the alcohol and tobacco sections.

2.4 Data entry and cleaning

Questionnaires from all states and territories were catalogued by the Centre for Behavioural Research in Cancer at The Cancer Council Victoria. Questionnaires were scanned and converted into data files, and were cleaned by a commercial market research firm. Cleaning followed the same procedures as used in previous years and is detailed in 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 25,758 students in Year levels 7 to 12 were surveyed from schools in Australia during the survey period. Table 2.1 presents the number of students in each gender and age group between 12 and 17 years. A total of 24,408 students aged between 12 and 17 years who provided valid data on their gender answered the questionnaire. Data from students outside this age range were excluded from the analysis as the numbers in each age and gender group were too small to ensure reliable estimates.

Table 2.1: Number of students surveyed in 2008 in Australia, by age and gender

	Age						
	12	13	14	15	16	17	12–17
Male	1141	2153	2216	2241	2318	1422	11491
Female	1352	2394	2408	2321	2647	1795	12917
Total	2493	4547	4624	4562	4965	3217	24408

2.6 Data analyses

Analyses cover school students aged 12 to 17 years. To ensure that disproportionate sampling of any state, school type, age level and gender 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 these 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. Respondents were not included in the analyses of particular questions if they gave contradictory or multiple responses or did not answer the question. However, these respondents were included in the analysis of other questions if these had been validly completed.

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 are provided for information, regardless of their levels of statistical reliability. 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 (i.e. 12-year-old boys) and the percentage reported (i.e., 15%). The confidence interval is larger when the sample size is small and the estimate is around 50%. For the 2008 survey, the largest confidence interval will be found for 12-year-old boys as this group has the smallest sample size (n=1141). The 95% confidence interval for 12-year-old boys around an estimate of 50% is ± 2.9%, meaning that the actual percentage will be between 47.1% and 52.9%. Thus, using 95% confidence intervals, the estimates of the prevalence of use if the different substances among different age and gender groups reported here are within 2.9% or better of the true population values. When interpreting results, readers should refer to the table of confidence intervals associated with the sample size achieved for each age and gender group (Appendix 3). The reader should be aware that some results may be statistically indistinguishable from zero based on the 95% Confidence Interval associated with an estimate.

Given the large sample size and in accordance with previous practice, only those results associated with a p value of <0.01 were taken to be statistically significant.

In addition, caution should be used when interpreting the reported findings as they are based on self-reported data and not empirical testing of the substance(s) used.

2.7 Definitions of substances

The substance categories used in this report were identical to the categories used in the questionnaire and follow the descriptions and examples provided to students, as follows:

Alcohol	Ordinary beer, low alcohol beer, wine, wine cooler, champagne or sparkling wine, alcoholic apple cider, alcoholic sodas, premixed spirits, spirits, or liqueurs.
Amphetamines:	Amphetamines or speed, uppers, MDA, goey, dex, Dexie's, dexamphetamine, ox blood, methamphetamine or ice, other than for medical reasons.
Analgesics:	Painkillers/analgesics such as 'Disprin', 'Panadol' or 'Aspro'.
Cannabis:	Marijuana, grass, hash, cannabis, dope, weed, mull, yarndi, ganga, pot, a bong, or a joint.
Cocaine:	Cocaine.
Ecstasy:	Ecstasy or XTC, E, MDMA, ecci, X, bickies.
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 or pethidine other than for medical reasons.
Tobacco:	Cigarettes,
Tranquillisers:	Sleeping tablets, tranquillisers or sedatives such as 'Rohies', 'Rohypnol', 'Barbs', 'Valium' or 'Serepax', for non-medical reasons.
Steroids:	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.

2.8 Definitions of frequency of use of different substances

2.8.1 Tobacco

Students were asked if they had smoked cigarettes in their lifetime, in the past year and month, 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 students and males and females in each age group between 12 and 17 years.

The categories of tobacco use are:

Never:	Those who had not had even a puff of a cigarette.
Ever:	Those who indicated they had had at least a puff of a cigarette in their lifetime (ever use)
Year:	Those who had smoked cigarettes within the past year.
Month:	Those who had smoked cigarettes within the four weeks prior to completing the survey.
Current smokers:	Those who had smoked cigarettes within the seven days prior to completing the survey.
Committed smokers:	Those who had smoked cigarettes on at least three days of the preceding seven days.
Daily smokers:	Those who had smoked on each of the seven days prior to the survey day.

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 students, and males and females in each age group between 12 and 17 years.

The categories of alcohol use are:

Never:	Those who had not had even a sip of an alcoholic drink.
Ever:	Those who indicated they had consumed at least a sip of an alcoholic drink in their lifetime (ever use).
Year:	Those who had consumed an alcoholic drink within the past year.
Month:	Those who had consumed an alcoholic drink within the four weeks prior to completing the survey.
Current drinkers:	Those who had consumed an alcoholic drink on any of the seven days prior to completing the survey.
Risky drinking	Those males who consumed seven or more alcoholic drinks on at least one day of the preceding seven days and those females who consumed five or more alcoholic drinks on at least one day of the preceding seven days.

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 the time periods: lifetime, past year, past month is reported for all students and males and females in each age group between 12 and 17 years. For the more common substances (eg, analgesics, cannabis) weekly use is also reported.

The categories of use reported are:

Never:	Those who had never used the substance.
Ever:	Those who indicated any use of the substance, either in their lifetime, the past month, or past week (ever use).
Year:	Those who had used the substance within the past year.
Month:	Those who had used the substance within the four weeks prior to completing the survey.
Week:	Those who had used the substance within the seven days prior to completing the survey.
Regular use:	Students who used a substance 10 or more times within the past year

For all substances, the frequency of use categories are not mutually exclusive but overlap so that a student who reported having used a substance in the past week was included in the estimates of use in all other time periods, that is, 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 2008?

Table 3.1 shows the prevalence of smoking among Australian secondary school students in 2008 in each age and gender group.

Table 3.1: Lifetime experience and current cigarette smoking by secondary school students according to age and gender#, Australia, 2008 (%)

	Age						
	12 (%)	13 (%)	14 (%)	15 (%)	16 (%)	17 (%)	Total (%)
Never smoked							
Male	86.7	83.7	75.4	66.8	59.8	55.2	72.7
Female	92.7	86.0	75.3	63.9	57.9	53.4	72.8
Total	89.6	84.8	75.3	65.4	58.8	54.3	72.8
More than 100 cigarettes in lifetime							
Male	0.3	0.8	3.2	4.8	7.9	9.8	4.0
Female	0.0	0.4	2.9	4.9	6.8	8.2	3.6
Total	0.2	0.6	3.1	4.8	7.4	9.0	3.8
Smoked in past year							
Male	5.6	8.3	15.1	19.9	27.0	30.7	16.6
Female	3.3	8.5	16.9	26.3	30.3	32.0	18.6
Total	4.5	8.4	16.0	23.0	28.6	31.4	17.6
Smoked in past month							
Male	2.9	4.2	8.4	11.0	16.5	18.8	9.5
Female	1.4	4.3	11.0	15.8	16.7	17.7	10.7
Total	2.2	4.2	9.6	13.4	16.6	18.3	10.1
Smoked in past week (current smoker)							
Male	2.1	3.1	6.1	7.9	11.5	14.5	6.9
Female	1.0	2.9	7.9	11.5	12.4	12.7	7.7
Total	1.5	3.0	6.9	9.6	12.0	13.6	7.3
Committed smokers (3+ days in past 7 days)							
Male	0.9	1.5	4.0	4.8	7.4	9.3	4.2
Female	0.2	1.3	4.7	6.9	7.8	7.5	4.5
Total	0.6	1.4	4.3	5.8	7.6	8.4	4.4

Prevalence estimates are within ± 2.9% of the true population values (see section 2.6). See Appendix 3 for 95% Confidence interval estimates for different proportions for each age and gender group.

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

In 2008, around 70% of all secondary students across Australia had no experience with smoking

Less than 5% of all students had smoked at least 100 cigarettes in their lifetime, with this proportion peaking at 9% among 17-year-olds.

The proportion of students smoking in the past 12 months increased from 5% of 12-year-olds to 31% among 17-year-olds.

Students who smoked in the seven days preceding the survey are termed current smokers. The proportion of students who were current smokers increased from 2% among 12-year-olds to 14% among 17-year-olds.

Students who had smoked on three or more days of the preceding week were defined as committed smokers. Only 4% of all students had smoked on 3 or more days in the previous week with this proportion increasing to 8% among 17-year-olds.

There was little difference in the prevalence of smoking among male and female students at each age. The exception to this was among 15-year-olds where significantly more females than males had smoked in the past year, past month, past week and on three or more days in the past week. Females aged 14 years were also more likely to have smoked in the past month than males aged 14 years.

Table 3.2 shows the smoking behaviours of current smokers.

It is estimated that around 111,800 students had smoked at least one cigarette in the week prior to the survey.

Except among 12-year-old girls, the majority of current smokers had smoked on more than one of the preceding seven days.

The proportion of current smokers smoking on three or more days in the previous week increased with age from about 37% of 12-year-olds to about 62% of 17-year-olds.

The proportion of current smokers that smoked on a daily basis increased from 10% among the 12-year-olds to 31% among 17-year-olds.

Within each age and for 12- to 17-year-olds, there was no statistically significant difference in the proportion of male and female current smokers who had smoked on one day, on three or more days or daily.

Table 3.2: Smoking behaviours of secondary school students who smoked in the week before the survey, by age and gender (base: current smokers), Australia, 2008

	Age						
	12 (%)	13 (%)	14 (%)	15 (%)	16 (%)	17 (%)	Total (%)
Estimated number of current smokers							
Male	2967	4491	8694	10908	13776	12914	53750
Female	1278	3985	10709	15222	14874	12039	58107
Total	4245	8476	19403	26130	28650	24953	111857
Smoked on only one day							
Male	48.3	35.4	26.9	23.7	21.4	26.5	26.8
Female	72.8	37.7	24.1	26.1	25.5	31.6	28.8
Total	55.7	36.5	25.3	25.1	23.5	29.0	27.9
Committed smokers (3+ days in past 7 days)							
Male	43.5	49.0	66.0	60.5	64.1	63.9	61.2
Female	20.8	44.9	59.6	60.0	63.3	59.3	58.3
Total	36.7	47.1	62.4	60.2	63.7	61.7	59.7
Daily smokers							
Male	14.7	15.0	30.6	32.3	26.8	36.6	29.3
Female	0.0	10.8	21.5	25.2	30.3	25.8	23.6
Total	10.3	13.0	25.6	28.2	28.6	31.4	26.3
Mean number of cigarettes per week^ (se‡)							
Males	6.6	11.4	24.0	27.9	26.2	28.2	25.0
(se)	(1.5)	(2.6)	(3.0)	(2.9)	(2.2)	(2.5)	(1.2)
Females	4.8	9.2	16.8	19.4	22.8	21.6	19.5
(se)	(1.6)	(1.5)	(1.9)	(1.6)	(1.9)	(1.8)	(0.9)
Total	5.8	10.2	19.8	22.6	24.1	25.2	21.6
(se)	(4.9)	(2.7)	(1.7)	(1.5)	(1.3)	(1.5)	(1.1)

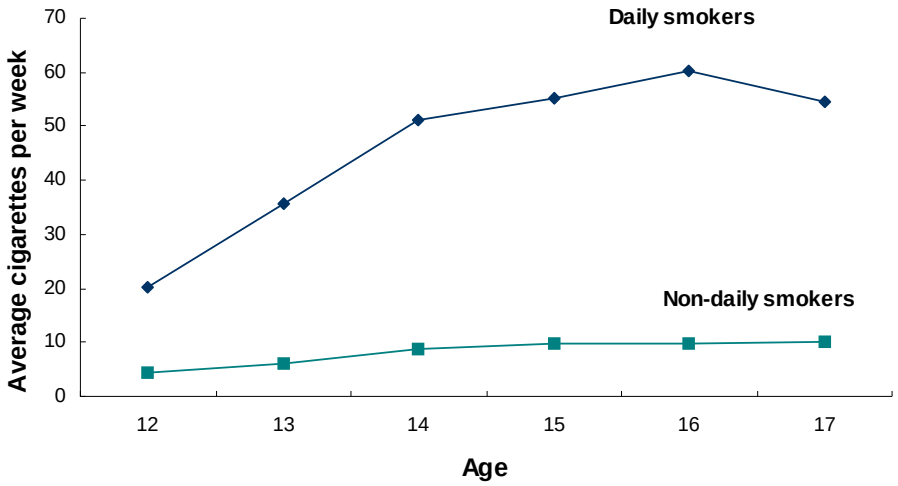
‡ Standard error.

^ Students indicating they had smoked more than 40 cigarettes on any one day of preceding 7 days excluded from analysis. Mean scores are based on unweighted data.

The number of cigarettes consumed each week increased with age to peak at about 24 cigarettes among 16- and 17-year-olds. The number of cigarettes smoked per week by male and female current smokers was significantly different at age 15 ($p<0.01$), and across all ages ($p<0.01$).

Figure 3.1 shows the average number of cigarettes smoked per week by daily and non-daily smokers at each age group. In these analyses students who reported smoking more than 40 cigarettes a day were excluded.

Figure 3.1: Average number of cigarettes consumed per week among daily smokers and non-daily current smokers at each age group, Australia, 2008#



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

Among non-daily smokers, there was only a slight increase in the number of cigarettes consumed per week with age (from nearly 5 to 10 cigarettes).

Among daily smokers the number of cigarettes consumed per week increased substantially with age: from 36 cigarettes among 13-year-olds to 60 cigarettes among students aged 16.

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

Table 3.3 shows the most popular cigarette brands among those who had smoked in the week prior to the survey. Students who indicated that they smoked multiple brands were excluded from these analyses.

Table 3.3: Preferred brands by those who smoked in the past week, †# Australia, 2008 (%)

	Age								
	12–15 year olds			16–17 year olds			Total		
Brand	Male (%)	Female (%)	Total (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Total (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Total (%)
Winfield	39.1	40.9	40.1	45.8	42.1	43.9	42.6	41.5	42.0
Peter Jackson	17.8	15.4	16.5	9.1	10.2	9.7	13.3	12.9	13.1
Longbeach	16.8	17.7	17.3	7.3	11.1	9.2	11.9	14.5	13.3
Horizon	5.3	7.3	6.4	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.7	5.8	5.3
Benson & Hedges	2.8	3.6	3.2	9.9	10.8	10.4	6.5	7.1	6.8
Holiday	5.7	2.5	3.9	1.3	1.6	1.4	3.4	2.0	2.7
Dunhill	2.4	3.4	2.9	2.9	4.1	3.5	2.6	3.7	3.2
Marlboro	2.8	1.7	2.2	2.9	5.4	4.2	2.8	3.5	3.2
Escort	1.8	1.5	1.6	1.3	1.0	1.1	1.6	1.2	1.4
Alpine	1.0	1.3	1.2	0.0	0.7	0.4	0.5	1.0	0.8

Percentages of total in each age and gender category.

† Percentages exclude responses from students who gave more than one brand.

Percentages do not add to 100 as only the most frequent responses are listed.

In 2008, Winfield (42%) was the most popular cigarette brand among adolescent current smokers. Peter Jackson and Longbeach were both smoked by 13% of current smokers.

In 2008, Winfield, Peter Jackson and Longbeach were all sold in packets of 20s and/or 25s. Table 3.4 shows the size of the pack from which students commonly access their cigarettes.

Table 3.4: Percentage of current smokers obtaining their last cigarette from different pack sizes, Australia, 2008

	Age								
	12–15 year olds			16–17 year olds			12-17 year olds		
Pack size	Male (%)	Female (%)	Total (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Total (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Total (%)
20	31.5	31.2	31.3	26.3	26.4	26.4	28.9	28.9	28.9
25	32.1	30.2	31.1	50.2	46.5	48.3	41.3	37.8	39.5
30	12.9	21.5	17.7	11.8	16.9	14.4	12.3	19.4	16.1
35	2.7	2.3	2.5	1.2	1.0	1.1	1.9	1.7	1.8
40	14.1	11.4	12.6	6.5	7.9	7.2	10.2	9.7	10.0
50	11.0	7.8	9.2	8.6	4.1	6.4	9.8	6.1	7.8

Cigarettes were most commonly obtained from packets of 25 (40% of all current smokers), followed by packets of 20 (29%) and 30 (16%).

Among 12- to 15-year-olds, a similar proportion of current smokers obtained cigarettes from packs of 20 (31%) and packs of 25 (31%). Among the 16- to 17-year-olds, fewer current smokers used packs of 20 (26%) than packs of 25 (48%).

Table 3.5 shows how current smokers accessed cigarettes in 2008.

Table 3.5: Percentage of current smokers^ obtaining their last cigarette from different sources *# Australia, 2008

	Age								
	12–15 year olds			16–17 year olds			Total		
	Male (%)	Female (%)	Total (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Total (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Total (%)
Did not buy:									
Parents	7.1	4.1	5.5	6.1	3.2	4.6	6.6	3.7	5.0
Siblings	7.5	6.8	7.1	3.6	4.3	3.9	5.5	5.6	5.5
Took from home	6.8	8.0	7.4	1.3	2.4	1.9	4.0	5.3	4.7
Friends	48.3	47.4	47.8	38.4	46.0	42.3	43.2	46.7	45.1
Someone bought it	13.0	19.7	16.7	15.0	20.7	17.9	14.0	20.2	17.3
Bought from:									
Supermarket	1.5	1.3	1.4	5.9	3.1	4.5	3.8	2.2	2.9
Milk bar	3.7	1.3	2.4	5.7	2.6	4.1	4.7	1.9	3.2
Petrol station	2.5	0.9	1.6	5.6	3.3	4.4	4.1	2.0	3.0
Convenience store	0.6	2.0	1.4	6.2	5.6	5.9	3.5	3.7	3.6

^ Current smokers: smoked on at least one day of preceding seven days.

* Percentages of total in each age and gender category.

Percentages do not add to 100 as only the most frequent responses are listed.

The two most common ways for adolescents to access cigarettes were through their friends (45% of current smokers) and asking someone else to buy them (17% of current smokers).

Table 3.6: Percentage* of current smokers^ who bought or did not buy their last cigarette, Australia, 2008 (%)

	Age								
	12–15 year olds			16–17 year olds			Total		
	Male (%)	Female (%)	Total (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Total (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Total (%)
Did not buy cigarettes	87.3	89.3	88.4	66.4	77.4	72.1	76.6	83.6	80.4
Bought cigarettes	12.7	10.7	11.6	33.6	22.6	27.9	23.3	16.3	19.6

^ Current smokers: smoked on at least one day of preceding seven days.

* Percentages of total in each age and gender category.

Twenty per cent of current smokers bought their last cigarette themselves (Table 3.6). Buying cigarettes was more common among current smokers aged 16 to 17 years than those aged 12 to 15 years.

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

In 2008 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 3.7: Percentage of students at each age believing it would be easy or very easy for them to purchase cigarettes themselves or by getting someone else to buy cigarettes for them, Australia, 2008.

	Age						
	12 (%)	13 (%)	14 (%)	15 (%)	16 (%)	17 (%)	Total (%)
Buy cigarettes themselves							
Male	13.2	13.2	16.4	22.9	29.0	38.8	20.9
Female	9.8	10.2	13.3	16.6	21.5	29.1	16.0
Total	11.5	11.7	14.9	19.8	25.2	33.8	18.5
Get others to buy cigarettes							
Male	26.4	36.1	47.6	56.7	62.5	67.9	48.0
Female	27.0	35.8	49.3	59.0	62.0	68.5	49.2
Total	26.7	35.9	48.5	57.9	62.2	68.2	48.6

Table 3.7 shows that 19% of all students thought it would be very easy or easy for them to purchase cigarettes. The proportion believing this increased with age and peaked among 17-year-old boys at 39%.

A greater proportion of students thought it would be easy or very easy to get someone else to buy cigarettes for them (49%) and this belief increased with age from 27% at age 12, to 68% at age 17.

Table 3.8 presents the proportion of students who had smoked in the past week believing it would be 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 were not current smokers.

Table 3.8: Percentage of students who are current smokers# or not in each age believing it would be easy or very easy for them to purchase cigarettes themselves or by getting someone else to buy cigarettes for them, Australia, 2008 (%)

	Age						
	12 (%)	13 (%)	14 (%)	15 (%)	16 (%)	17 (%)	Total (%)
Current smokers							
Buy cigarettes themselves							
Male	30.5	38.6	32.0	54.9	48.8	63.8	49.1
Female	39.0	20.5	30.4	32.8	42.6	49.0	37.6
Total	33.1	30.1	31.1	42.0	45.6	56.6	43.1
Get others to buy cigarettes							
Male	64.7	73.6	81.7	83.5	75.1	78.5	78.0
Female	63.8	75.6	82.0	87.4	83.0	82.9	83.0
Total	64.4	74.5	81.9	85.8	79.2	80.6	80.6
Not current smokers							
Buy cigarettes themselves							
Male	12.8	12.2	15.4	20.1	26.4	34.5	18.8
Female	9.5	9.9	11.8	14.5	18.4	26.2	14.2
Total	11.1	11.1	13.6	17.4	22.4	30.2	16.5
Get others to buy cigarettes							
Male	25.6	34.8	45.3	54.3	60.7	66.1	45.7
Female	26.6	34.6	46.5	55.2	59.0	66.4	46.3
Total	26.1	34.7	45.9	54.7	59.9	66.2	46.0

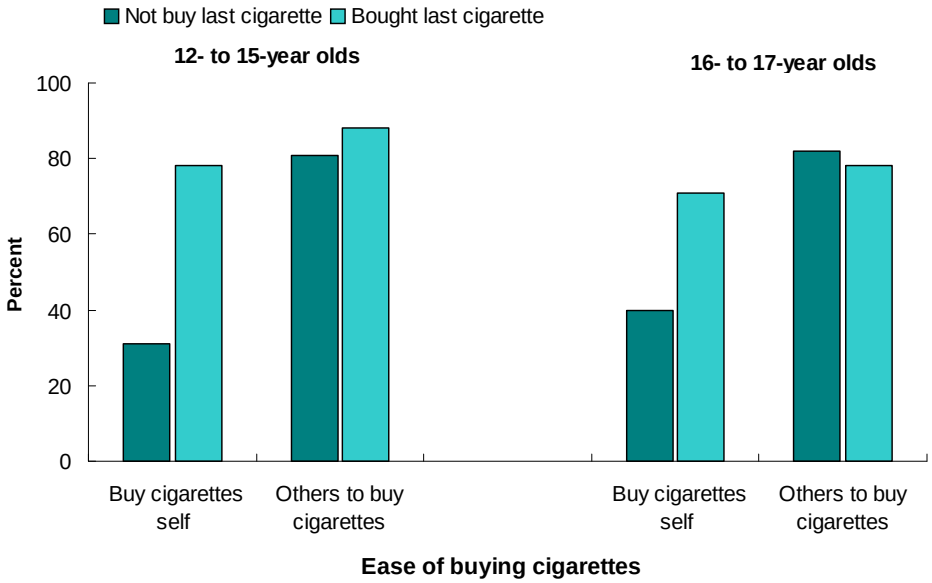
Current smokers: smoked on at least one day of preceding seven days.

Over all ages, 49% of male and 38% of female students who were current smokers thought it would be easy or very easy for them to buy cigarettes themselves.

Most current smokers thought it would be easy or very easy to get others to buy cigarettes for them. Across all age groups 81% of current smokers thought it would be easy or very easy for them to get someone to buy cigarettes for them.

Figure 3.2 shows the proportion of current smokers believing it would be easy or very easy for them to buy cigarettes or to get someone else to buy cigarettes for them by whether they purchased their last cigarette or not.

Figure 3.2: Percentage of current smokers aged 12 to 15 years and 16 to 17 years believing it would be easy for them to buy cigarettes themselves or to get someone else to buy cigarettes for them, by whether they bought their last cigarette or not



Students who had bought their last cigarette were more likely to believe it would be easy or very easy for them to buy cigarettes for themselves compared to current smokers who did not buy their last cigarette ($p<0.001$).

Regardless of whether they had bought their last cigarette or not, over 75% of current smokers in both age groups thought it would be easy or very easy for them to get someone to buy cigarettes for them.

3.4 How do students see themselves in relation to smoking?

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 males and females in each age group chose to describe their smoking behaviours are shown in Table 3.9.

Table 3.9: Self-description of smoking status by age and gender for all students surveyed in Australia, 2008

	Age						
	12 (%)	13 (%)	14 (%)	15 (%)	16 (%)	17 (%)	Total (%)
Heavy smoker							
Male	0.0	0.6	2.0	2.6	3.0	3.0	1.8
Female	0.1	0.3	1.4	1.7	2.9	2.3	1.4
Total	0.0	0.5	1.7	2.2	3.0	2.6	1.6
Light smoker							
Male	1.1	1.0	2.0	2.5	4.1	5.1	2.4
Female	0.4	1.3	2.5	4.1	3.2	4.4	2.6
Total	0.7	1.2	2.3	3.3	3.7	4.7	2.5
Occasional smoker							
Male	1.2	1.4	2.7	5.0	7.3	6.5	4.0
Female	0.4	1.9	5.2	8.9	9.6	10.3	5.7
Total	0.8	1.6	3.9	6.9	8.4	9.5	4.8
Ex-smoker							
Male	2.2	1.9	3.1	3.9	4.4	3.2	3.1
Female	1.1	2.0	2.6	3.5	3.5	3.6	2.7
Total	1.7	2.0	2.9	3.7	3.9	3.4	2.9
Non-smoker							
Male	95.5	95.1	90.1	86.0	81.1	80.1	88.8
Female	98.0	94.4	88.3	81.7	80.9	79.4	87.7
Total	96.7	94.8	89.2	83.9	81.0	79.8	88.2

Most students in each age group saw themselves as non-smokers.

Five percent of all students surveyed described themselves as occasional smokers, with around 3% referring to themselves as light smokers.

Table 3.10: Percentage of students^ in each self description of smoking status category indicating they had been smoking in each time period and average number of cigarettes smoked per week by current smokers in each group, Australia, 2008#

	Self-description of smoking				
	Heavy smoker (n=430) (%)	Light smoker (n=616) (%)	Occasional smoker (n=1,302) (%)	Ex- smoker (n=733) (%)	Non-smoker (n=21,305) (%)
Smoked 100+ cigarettes	87.1	51.6	12.4	15.7	0.0
Smoked in past 12 months	95.6	95.7	97.7	73.8	7.8
Smoked in past 4 weeks	94.3	92.3	75.2	29.3	2.0
Smoked in past week	91.1	86.7	52.3	16.0	0.8
Smoked 3 days (past week)	87.9	72.2	19.9	3.5	0.0
Among current smokers – average number of cigarettes smoked/week^					
(mean)	58.2	24.4	7.3	5.3	5.3
(se)	(1.2)	(1.0)	(0.9)	(2.3)	(1.7)

^ Students indicating they had smoked more than 40 cigarettes on any one day of preceding 7 days excluded from analysis. Means are based on unweighted data

Percentages of student in each self-description of smoking category, smoking in each of the recency periods (i.e. last month, last week). Smoking recency periods are not mutually exclusive.

Table 3.10 examines the relationship between the labels adolescents use to describe their smoking status and 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. While over 85% of heavy and light smokers smoked in the month and week prior to the survey.

Of occasional smokers a greater proportion had smoked in the month before the survey (75%) than in the week before the survey (52%), indicating the irregularity of their smoking.

That 16% of ex-smokers smoked in the week prior to the survey might reflect the recency of their decision to no longer smoke, or it might reflect that some adolescents who have stopped smoking regularly (and hence the ex-smoker label) still have the occasional cigarette.

Students choosing the non-smoking label had limited experience with tobacco.

Current smokers who described themselves as heavy smokers consumed twice the number of cigarettes per week (mean=58) than current smokers who referred to themselves as light smokers (mean=24 cigarettes).

3.5 How likely are students to smoke in the next year?

Students were asked 'Do you think you will be smoking this time next year?' and chose a response from those listed in Table 3.11.

Table 3.11:Students' intention to smoke in the next 12 months, Australia, 2008#

	Age						
	12 (%)	13 (%)	14 (%)	15 (%)	16 (%)	17 (%)	Total (%)
Certain not to smoke							
Male	85.3	84.0	76.6	74.5	69.5	69.8	77.3
Female	87.4	81.2	71.7	66.1	65.6	66.4	73.6
Total	86.3	82.6	74.2	70.4	67.5	68.1	75.5
Unlikely/Very unlikely to smoke							
Male	11.2	11.4	14.5	16.0	17.5	15.9	14.2
Female	9.6	13.4	17.2	18.9	19.6	18.7	16.0
Total	10.4	12.4	15.8	17.4	18.6	17.4	15.1
Undecided							
Male	2.4	2.7	5.1	4.6	7.0	6.1	4.5
Female	2.5	2.9	6.3	8.0	8.6	7.1	5.8
Total	2.5	2.8	5.7	6.3	7.8	6.6	5.1
Likely/Very likely to smoke							
Male	1.0	1.4	2.0	3.1	4.4	6.6	2.8
Female	0.4	2.1	4.1	6.1	4.8	6.8	3.9
Total	0.7	1.7	3.0	4.6	4.6	6.7	3.3
Certain to smoke							
Male	0.1	0.6	1.8	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.2
Female	0.1	0.3	0.7	1.0	1.4	1.1	0.7
Total	0.1	0.4	1.2	1.3	1.5	1.3	1.0

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

The majority of students in each age and gender group indicated that they were 'certain not to smoke' in the next 12 months.

With increasing age, there was a small decline in the resolve of students to not smoke, with this decline greater for females than males.

About 5% of all students indicated they were undecided about their smoking in the next 12 months.

About 4% of all students thought they would be smoking in the next 12 months.

Table 3.12 shows the smoking intentions of current smokers.

Table 3.12: Intention to smoke in the next 12 months among current smokers, Australia, 2008 (%)

	Age						
	12 (%)	13 (%)	14 (%)	15 (%)	16 (%)	17 (%)	Total (%)
Current smokers							
Certain not to smoke	16.4	20.9	5.9	6.6	6.8	7.5	8.2
Unlikely/Very unlikely to smoke	41.3	16.1	19.0	17.0	18.1	19.4	19.0
Undecided	11.6	20.2	30.4	26.7	33.6	24.7	27.6
Likely/Very likely	28.2	35.3	29.1	37.6	30.9	40.9	34.5
Certain to smoke	2.5	7.4	15.7	12.6	10.6	7.5	10.7

Around 45% of current smokers were likely or certain to be smoking in 12 months time.

Around 8% of all current smokers were certain they would not be smoking in 12 months time and 19% thought it was unlikely they would be smoking.

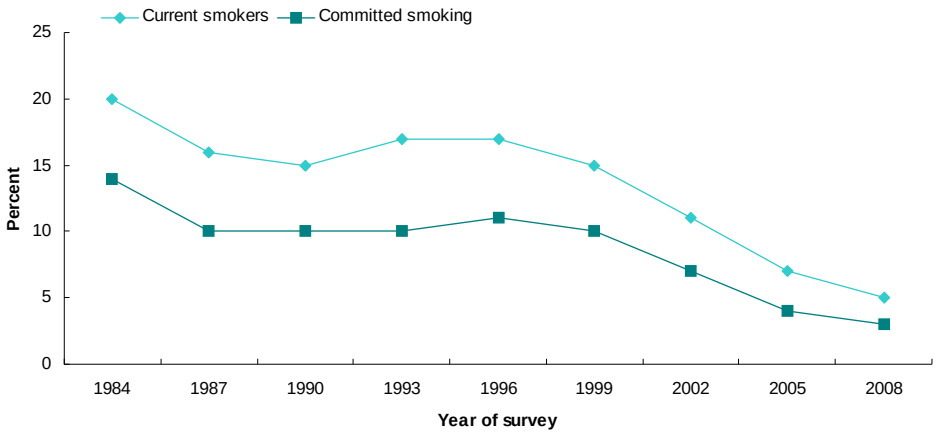
3.6 Has the smoking behaviour of secondary students changed over time?

3.6.1 Changes in smoking prevalence

In this section changes in smoking prevalence amongst two groups of students, those aged 12 to 15 years and those aged 16 and 17 years, are examined. The key indicators of smoking involvement examined are: lifetime smoking, smoking in the past month, past week (current smoking), smoking on three or more days of that week (committed smoking) and daily smokers.

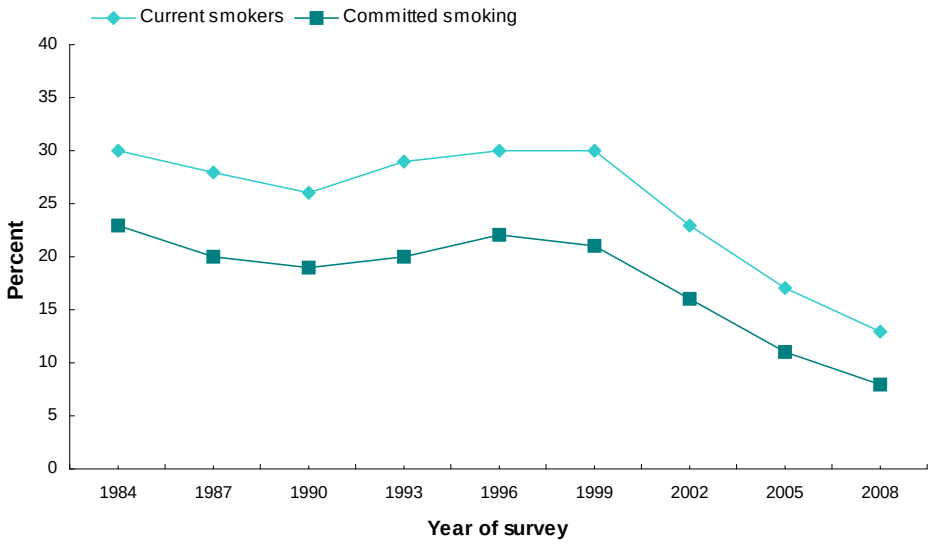
Figure 3.3 shows the proportion of all 12- to 15-year-olds surveyed in each year that had smoked in the week prior to the survey and the proportion smoking on three or more days of the preceding seven. Figure 3.4 shows the results for 16- and 17-year-olds. The proportions shown in the figures are not adjusted for age.

Figure 3.3: Trends in proportion of current (smoked in past week) and committed smoking (smoked on 3 or more days of past week) among 12- to 15-year-old students, 1984-2008



Among 12- to 15-year-olds, smoking decreased between 1984 and 1990 and then started to rise again in the 1990s. Smoking prevalence began to decline after 1996 and this decline has continued to 2008.

Figure 3.4: Trends in proportion of current smoking (smoked in past week) and committed smoking (smoked on 3 or more days of past week) among 16- to 17-year-old students, 1984-2008



Among 16- and 17-year-olds, while smoking prevalence declined in the late 1980s, it rose again in the early 1990s. The proportion of 16- and 17-year-olds involved with smoking began to decrease after 1999 and this decline continued to 2008.

Among both the 12- to 15-year-olds and the 16- to 17-year-olds the prevalence of both current smoking and committed smoking in 2008 was lower than at any other point in this survey series.

Table 3.13 shows the proportion of 12- to 15-year-olds, 16- to 17-year-olds and 12- to 17-year-olds who had ever smoked, smoked in the past month, past week, on three or

more of the preceding seven days, and who were daily smokers in 2002, 2005 and 2008 for males, females and for all students.

Table 3.13: Percentage of students involved with tobacco use at different levels in 2002, 2005 and 2008, Australia

	12–15-year-olds			16–17-year-olds			12–17-year-olds		
Recency period	2002 (%)	2005 (%)	2008 (%)	2002 (%)	2005 (%)	2008 (%)	2002 (%)	2005 (%)	2008 (%)
Lifetime									
Male	40.7**	29.2**	21.8	61.5**	51.7**	42.2	46.4**	35.1**	27.3
Female	40.0**	27.8**	20.5	64.6**	52.8**	44.1	46.8**	34.8**	27.2
Total	40.4**	28.6**	21.1	63.0**	52.2**	43.2	46.6**	34.9**	27.2
Month									
Male	12.7**	8.8**	6.6	26.2**	20.8	17.5	16.4**	11.9**	9.5
Female	15.6**	9.7	8.1	29.5**	22.5**	17.1	19.4**	13.2**	10.7
Total	14.1**	9.2**	7.3	27.9**	21.7**	17.3	17.9**	12.6**	10.1
Week									
Male	10.0**	6.7**	4.8	21.2**	16.0**	12.8	13.0**	9.1**	6.9
Female	12.0**	7.0	5.8	25.0**	17.0**	12.5	15.6**	9.8**	7.7
Total	11.0**	6.8**	5.3	23.1**	16.6**	12.7	14.3**	9.4**	7.3
Smoked on 3+ days in past week									
Male	5.9**	4.2**	2.8	14.4**	9.8	8.2	8.2**	5.6**	4.2
Female	7.1**	4.3	3.2	18.0**	11.2**	7.7	10.1**	6.2**	4.5
Total	6.5**	4.2**	3.0	16.2**	10.5**	7.9	9.2**	5.9**	4.4
Smoked daily in past week									
Male	3.1**	2.2**	1.3	9.5**	5.2	4.0	4.8**	3.0**	2.0
Female	3.0**	2.1**	1.2	11.5**	5.7**	3.6	5.4**	3.1**	1.9
Total	3.0**	2.1**	1.2	10.5**	5.4	3.8	5.1**	3.0**	1.9
Daily smokers among current smokers									
Male	31.1	33.2	27.5	44.5**	32.3	31.4	37.0**	32.8	29.5
Female	25.3**	29.6**	20.9	46.5**	33.3	28.5	34.7**	31.4**	24.4
Total	27.9**	31.4**	23.9	45.5**	32.9	30.0	35.7**	32.1**	26.8

** Significantly different from 2008 at $p \leq .01$.

For 12- to 15-year-olds, the proportion of students smoking in each of the recency periods in 2008 was significantly lower than that found in 2002 and 2005.

The proportion of current smokers among 12- to 15-year olds in 2008 had decreased by 24% of the proportion found in 2005, and by 53% of the proportion found in 2002.

The proportion of 16- and 17-year-olds smoking in the different recency periods in 2008 was generally statistically significantly lower than the proportions found in 2005 and 2002. The exceptions to this were for males smoking in the past month, on three or more days in the past week and daily smoking.

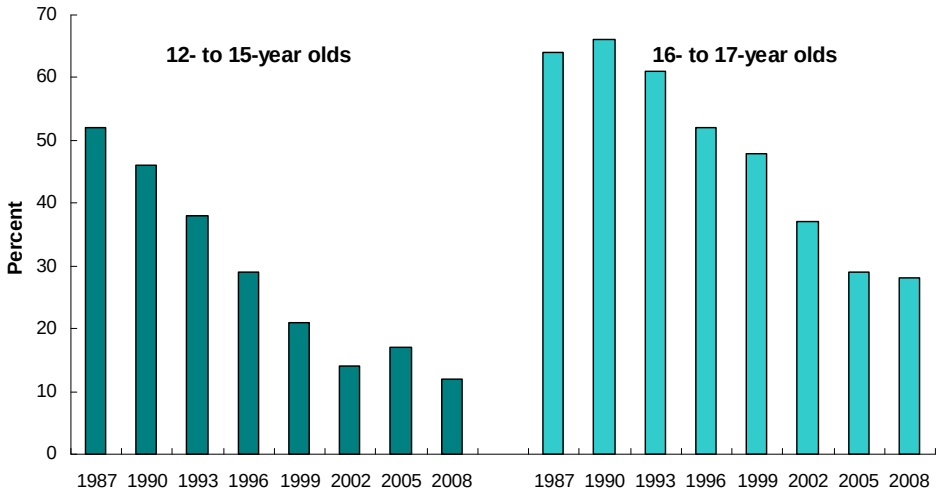
The proportion of current smokers among 16- to 17-year-olds in 2008 had decreased by 23% from the proportion found in 2005 and by 45% from the proportion found in 2002.

Among 12- to 15-year-olds, the proportion of daily smokers among current smokers in 2008 was lower than the proportion found in 2005 and 2002. However among 16- and 17-year-olds, the proportion of daily smokers among current smokers in 2008 was only significantly lower than the proportions found in 2002.

3.6.2 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 students aged 12 to 15 years, and students aged 16 and 17 years.

Figure 3.5: Proportion of current smokers aged 12–15 (left) and 16–17 (right) buying cigarettes for themselves in each survey year from 1987 to 2008



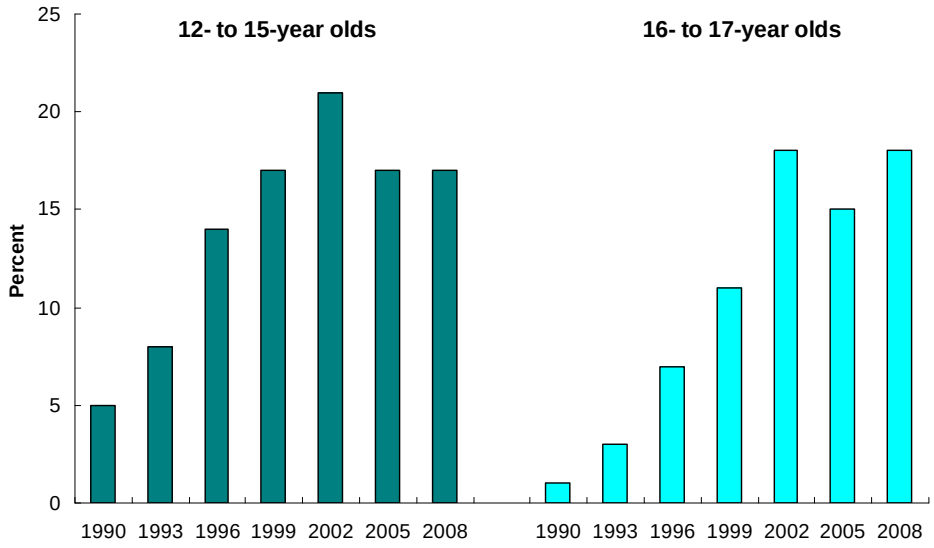
There has been a large decrease over time in the proportion of current smokers purchasing their cigarettes.

The proportion of current smokers aged between 12 and 15 buying their cigarettes decreased between 1987 and 2002. The proportion of younger current smokers buying their last cigarette increased slightly between 2002 and 2005 and then decreased between 2005 and 2008.

Among older current smokers buying their own cigarettes, the decrease in the proportion that commenced between 1990 and 1993 continued to 2005. Among current smokers in this older age group, there was no change in the proportion buying cigarettes between 2005 and 2008.

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).

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 from 1990 to 2008



The proportion of younger current smokers getting others to buy cigarettes for them decreased slightly between 2002 and 2005. The proportion of younger current smokers getting others to buy cigarettes for them in 2008 was similar to the proportion found in 2005.

Among 16- to 17-year-olds the proportion of current smokers getting someone else to buy cigarettes for them increased between 1990 and 2002 and then decreased between 2002 and 2005. There was a slight increase in the proportion of older current smokers getting others to buy cigarettes for them between 2005 and 2008.

4. Alcohol use among Australian secondary students

4.1 How many Australian secondary school students were involved with drinking alcohol in 2008?

Understanding the prevalence of alcohol consumption among Australian secondary school students in 2008 allows an assessment of the extent to which alcohol consumption has permeated the current adolescent culture.

Table 4.1 shows the proportion of students in each age and gender group who had used alcohol in different recency periods.

Table 4.1: Percentage of students reporting different levels of drinking experience by age and gender, Australia, 2008

	Age						
	12 (%)	13 (%)	14 (%)	15 (%)	16 (%)	17 (%)	Total (%)
Never consumed alcohol							
Male	33.9	23.3	16.5	11.7	10.0	7.4	18.0
Female	35.2	26.9	16.0	8.9	7.8	7.5	17.7
Total	34.5	25.1	16.3	10.3	8.9	7.5	17.9
Consumed alcohol in past year							
Male	31.1	46.9	61.8	73.4	80.8	83.5	61.0
Female	25.4	41.3	61.6	75.1	81.1	85.8	60.0
Total	28.3	44.2	61.7	74.2	81.0	84.7	60.5
Consumed alcohol in past month							
Male	15.3	20.8	34.1	45.9	58.5	66.3	37.7
Female	9.4	19.8	34.1	46.8	57.6	60.7	36.4
Total	12.4	20.3	34.1	46.3	58.0	63.4	37.1
Consumed alcohol in past week (current drinker)							
Male	8.1	11.3	20.9	28.2	37.8	46.3	23.6
Female	5.7	11.5	20.8	26.5	34.1	36.9	21.6
Total	7.0	11.4	20.8	27.4	35.9	41.4	22.6
Drank on one occasion in past week							
Males: 7+ drinks							
Females:5+ drinks							
Male	0.4	0.5	3.5	6.5	11.6	19.9	6.0
Female	0.1	1.0	5.0	7.8	12.8	16.9	6.6
Total	0.3	0.7	4.2	7.1	12.2	18.4	6.3

Prevalence estimates are within ± 2.9% of the true population values (see section 2.6). See Appendix 3 for 95% Confidence interval estimates for different proportions for each age and gender group.

Experience with alcohol is high amongst secondary school students and use becomes more common with increasing age.

Around 60% of all students had consumed alcohol in the year preceding the survey.

Students who drank alcohol in the preceding week were classified 'current drinkers'. The proportion of current drinkers increased with age and peaked among 17-year-olds at 46% for males and 37% for females.

There were few consistent gender differences in the prevalence of drinking within the different ages. Among 12-year-olds, males were more likely than females to have consumed alcohol in the past year, month and week. Males aged 17 years were more likely to consume alcohol in the past month and week then females of the same age. Among 16-year-olds, males were more likely than females to have consumed alcohol in the past week.

Male students who consumed seven or more alcoholic drinks on at least one day in the preceding week and female students who consumed five or more alcoholic drinks on one day were termed risky drinkers. The percentage of all students who consumed alcohol at a risky level in the past week increased from around 1% among 13-year-olds to 18% among 17-year-olds.

Table 4.2: Alcohol consumption among current drinkers by age and gender, Australia, 2008

	Age						
Current drinkers	12	13	14	15	16	17	Total
Average number of drinks# consumed per week$:							
Male	3.9	4.0	5.4	6.5	8.6	10.4	7.5
(se)	(0.6)	(0.6)	(0.3)	(0.3)	(0.3)	(0.4)	(0.2)
Female	2.2	3.2	4.7	5.6	6.1	6.7	5.5
(se)	(0.3)	(0.2)	(0.3)	(0.3)	(0.2)	(0.3)	(0.1)
Total	3.4	3.6	5.0	6.1	7.3	8.5	6.5
(se)	(0.6)	(0.3)	(0.3)	(0.2)	(0.2))	(0.2)	(0.1)
Current drinkers consumed on one occasion: *7+ drinks for males; 5+ drinks for females*							
Male (%)	4.9	4.4	16.7	23.1	30.8	43.1	25.6
Female (%)	2.1	8.9	23.9	29.6	37.7	46.1	30.9
Total (%)	3.8	6.6	20.2	26.2	34.1	44.5	28.1

Means are based on unweighted data. $Cases indicating they consumed more than 20 drinks on any one day excluded

Table 4.2 shows the average number of alcoholic drinks consumed by current drinkers in the week before the survey. The average number of drinks consumed per week was greater among male drinkers (7.5) than female drinkers (5.5), ($p<.01$).

The amount of alcohol students consumed per week increased as they aged (from three drinks among 12-year-olds to nine drinks among 17-year-olds ($p<.01$).

Males aged 16 and 17 years who were current drinkers consumed more alcohol per week than female current drinkers of the same age ($p<0.01$).

The proportion of current drinkers drinking at risky levels at least once in the week before the survey increased with age. Around 7% of 13-year-olds who were current

drinkers consumed alcohol at risky levels and this increased to around 45% among 17-year-olds.

4.2 Type of alcohol consumed

Current drinkers were asked to indicate the type of alcohol they consumed. The drink types most commonly consumed are shown in Table 4.3 for males and females in the two broader age groups 12 to 15 years and 16 to 17 years. Students who selected more than one drink were excluded from these analyses.

Table 4.3: Drink types most commonly consumed by those who drank alcohol in the past week,*†# Australia, 2008

	Age								
	12–15 year olds			16–17 year olds			Total		
Beverage type	Male (%)	Female (%)	Total (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Total (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Total (%)
Beer (ordinary)	29.2	6.5	18.5	40.6	3.7	23.2	34.7	5.1	20.8
Wine	7.0	7.0	7.0	3.4	5.4	4.3	5.3	6.2	5.7
Premixed spirits	16.0	46.9	30.6	15.6	53.8	33.6	15.8	50.3	32.1
Spirits	35.6	25.7	30.9	35.1	26.7	31.1	35.3	26.1	31.0

* Percentages of total in each age and gender category.

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

Percentages do not add to 100 as only the most frequent responses are listed.

Across all age groups, 32% of current drinkers indicated they drank premixed spirits and 31% indicated they consumed spirits that were not in premixed bottles.

The consumption of premixed spirits was significantly more common among females than males in both age groups ($p<.01$).

In both age groups, males were more likely than females to drink beer ($p<.01$).

In both age groups, males were more likely than females to consume spirits ($p<.01$).

4.3 Access to alcohol

Students who ever drank alcohol were asked how they accessed their last alcoholic drink. The most common sources of alcohol for current drinkers are shown in Table 4.4 for males and females in the two age groups 12 to 15 years and 16 to 17 years.

Table 4.4: Most common sources of alcohol for those who drank alcohol in the past week,*# Australia, 2008

	Age								
	12–15 year olds			16–17 year olds			Total		
	Male (%)	Female (%)	Total (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Total (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Total (%)
Did not buy, supplied by:									
Parents	36.1	34.3	35.3	30.5	33.5	31.9	33.4	34.0	33.7
Siblings	11.8	8.2	10.1	7.3	6.4	6.9	9.6	7.4	8.6
Took from home	8.3	7.8	8.1	2.4	1.3	1.9	5.5	4.7	5.1
Friends	22.0	24.6	23.2	22.4	20.7	21.6	22.1	22.8	22.4
Someone else bought	13.4	18.0	15.6	22.3	28.3	25.2	17.7	22.9	20.2
Bought from:									
Liquor store/supermarket	0.8	0.6	0.7	6.3	2.4	4.4	3.4	1.4	2.5
Bottle shop	0.7	0.1	0.4	2.3	1.1	1.7	1.5	0.5	1.0
Drive-in bottle shop	0.5	0.2	0.3	1.4	1.1	1.3	1.0	0.6	0.8
Bar/Pub/RSL	0.4	0.2	0.3	1.4	1.6	1.5	0.9	0.9	0.9

* Percentages of total in each age and gender category.

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

Parents were the most common source of alcohol with 34% of 12- to 17-year-old current drinkers indicating their parents gave them their last drink.

Among current drinkers aged 12 to 15 years, 23% indicated that they obtained their last alcoholic drink from friends, while 16% indicated that someone else bought it for them.

Among older current drinkers, obtaining alcohol from someone else (25%) was slightly more common than obtaining it from friends (22%).

Among current drinkers, 3% of 12- to 15-year-olds and 10% of 16- to 17-year-olds had bought their last alcoholic drink themselves.

4.4 Who students ask to buy alcohol for them

Students who reported that they had someone else buy their last alcoholic drink were asked to indicate who that person was. Students selected from options including: *a friend who is 18 years or over; brother/sister 18 years or over; friend under 18 years; brother/sister under 18 years; or a strange who was able to buy alcohol*. Responses to this question are shown in Table 4.5 for males and females aged 12 to 15 years and 16 to 17 years.

Table 4.5: Percentage of current drinkers who had someone else buy alcohol for them reporting that different people bought the alcohol#, Australia, 2008

	Age								
	12–15 year olds			16–17 year olds			Total		
	Male (%)	Female (%)	Total (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Total (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Total (%)
	(n=172)	(n=241)	(N=413)	(n=303)	(n=406)	(n=709)	(n=475)	(n=647)	(n=1122)
Friend 18 years or over	66.0	67.4	66.8	64.6	65.0	64.7	65.1	66.0	65.6
Brother/sister 18 years or over	10.1	10.4	10.3	14.6	14.9	14.7	12.9	13.0	13.0
Friend under 18 years	8.7	9.6	9.2	13.9	12.3	13.1	11.9	11.2	11.5
Brother/sister under 18 years	0.3	0.7	0.6	0.0	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.5	0.4
Stranger	9.9	5.1	7.2	6.4	1.7	3.8	7.7	3.1	5.2

Students who consumed alcohol in the past week and reported that they had someone else buy their last alcoholic drink.

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

Only around 5% of students who had someone else buy alcohol for them, indicated this person was a stranger.

4.5 Places where 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 4.6 for males, females and all students.

Table 4.6: Most usual places for drinking by students who had consumed alcohol in the previous week, Australia, 2008

	Age								
	12–15 year olds			16–17 year olds			Total		
	Male (%)	Female (%)	Total (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Total (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Total (%)
	(n=1318)	(n=1359)	(n=2677)	(n=1402)	(n=1486)	(n=2888)	(n=2720)	(n=2845)	(n=5565)
At home	35.3	32.4	33.9	28.1	26.6	27.4	31.9	29.6	30.8
Party	28.6	28.5	28.6	29.8	33.7	31.6	29.2	30.9	30.0
Friends house	16.1	20.1	18.0	22.6	21.9	22.2	19.2	20.9	20.0

The three main places for students to drink were: the family home, a friend's home and a party. About 80% of students who were current drinkers indicated they drank their last alcoholic drink in one of these three places.

About 31% of all current drinkers last consumed alcohol at home and 30% last consumed alcohol at a party.

Of current drinkers aged 12 to 17 years, 20% consumed alcohol at a friend's house.

4.6 Adult supervision of student drinking, location of supervised drinking and source of alcohol when drinking was supervised

Students were asked if an adult was supervising them (and/or their friends) when they consumed their last alcoholic drink. Table 4.7 shows the percentage of male and female current drinkers in each age group who consumed their last alcoholic drink under adult supervision.

Table 4.7: Percentage of current drinkers who consumed their last alcoholic drink under adult supervision#, Australia, 2008

	Age						
	12 (%)	13 (%)	14 (%)	15 (%)	16 (%)	17 (%)	Total (%)
Consumed last drink under adult supervision							
Male	64.6	67.0	62.5	56.8	61.8	55.0	59.9
Female	64.3	63.7	60.2	55.1	59.3	57.8	58.8
Total	64.4	65.4	61.4	56.0	60.6	56.3	59.4

Students who consumed alcohol in the past week and provided information about adult supervision.

Overall, the majority of current drinkers reported that they had consumed their last alcoholic drink under adult supervision.

Adult supervision of student drinking decreased with age, from around 64% of 12-year-olds to 56% of 17-year-olds.

The proportion of male and female current drinkers in the three most common locations who consumed alcohol under adult supervision is shown in Table 4.8.

Table 4.8: Percentage of current drinkers# drinking at home, at a party or at a friends' house who consumed their last alcoholic drink under adult supervision, Australia, 2008

	Age						
	12 (%)	13 (%)	14 (%)	15 (%)	16 (%)	17 (%)	Total (%)
Home							
Male	79.0	77.6	83.3	76.3	74.7	69.0	76.1
Female	67.7	73.7	75.3	73.7	73.8	73.8	73.6
Total	74.5	75.7	79.6	75.1	74.3	71.2	75.0
Party							
Male	45.1	59.4	47.1	50.6	58.8	57.0	54.0
Female	67.7	48.9	50.2	51.4	60.3	53.9	67.7
Total	50.0	63.1	48.0	50.4	54.9	58.6	54.0
Friend's home							
Male	24.7	61.1	43.9	43.8	54.0	45.9	47.5
Female	49.0	48.0	60.0	48.1	51.3	45.3	50.2
Total	38.6	53.7	52.9	46.0	52.7	45.6	48.8

Students who consumed alcohol in the past week and provided information about adult supervision.

The majority of current drinkers within each age group 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 50% drank under adult supervision at each age.

Current drinkers who consumed their last drink at a friend's home were the least likely to have drunk under adult supervision. However, even when students consumed alcohol at a friend's home just under 50% reported drinking under adult supervision.

4.7 Relationship between sources of alcohol, place alcohol is consumed, and drinking behaviour

Table 4.9 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 4.9: Average number of drinks# consumed per week among younger (12- to 15-year-olds), older (16- to 17-year-olds) and all current drinkers by source of alcohol and where alcohol was consumed, Australia, 2008

	Age		
Average number of drinks per week	12–15 year olds	16–17 year olds	12–17 year olds
Alcohol obtained from:			
Parents	3.2	5.6	4.4
Friends	5.0	6.3	5.6
Someone else bought it for me	8.3	8.8	8.6
Where alcohol was consumed:			
Home	3.3	5.3	4.2
Friend's place	5.4	7.2	6.6
Party	6.1	8.4	7.5

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

Both younger and older students 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 ($p<.01$).

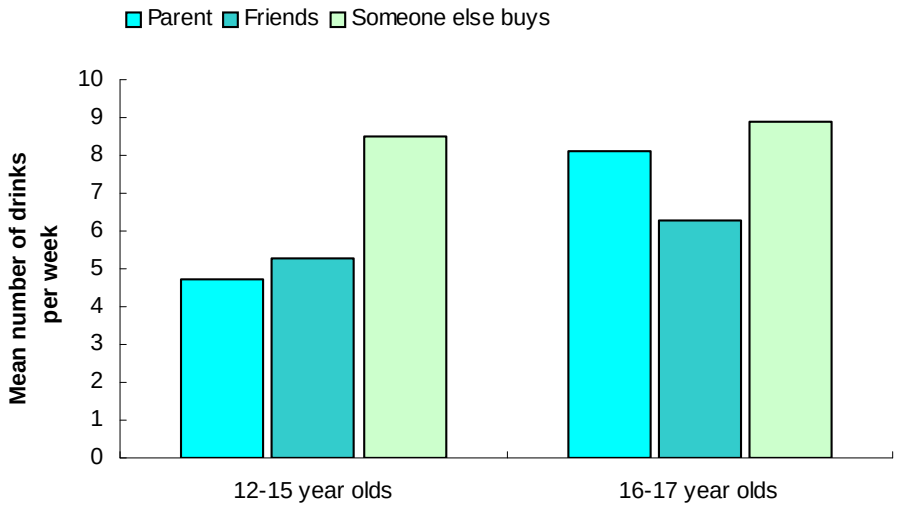
Among younger students, average weekly consumption of alcohol was also significantly lower if alcohol was obtained from parents than from friends ($p<.01$).

Younger and older current drinkers, drank significantly less alcohol per week if they consumed it at home than at a friend's place or at a party ($p<.01$).

The average number of drinks consumed per week by older current drinkers was significantly higher when they drank at a party than at a friend's place ($p<.01$).

The average number of drinks per week for younger and older students drinking at a party by source of alcohol is shown in Figure 4.1.

Figure 4.1: The average number of drinks per week# for 12- to 15-year-old current drinkers (left) and 16- to 17-year-old current drinkers (right) who drank their last drink at a party, according to source of alcohol



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

Among 12- to 15-year-olds, current drinkers consumed significantly fewer drinks per week when parents supplied the alcohol for the party than those current drinkers who obtained their alcohol for the party by getting someone else to buy it for them ($p<.01$).

Among both younger and older students, current drinkers who drank alcohol at a party that was purchased by someone else consumed more alcohol per week than current drinkers who consumed alcohol supplied by their friends ($p<.01$).

4.8 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 4.10.

Table 4.10: Self-description of drinking behaviour by age and gender for all Australian secondary school students, Australia, 2008

	Age						
	12 (%)	13 (%)	14 (%)	15 (%)	16 (%)	17 (%)	Total (%)
Non-drinker							
Male	84.1	77.2	60.2	47.7	34.4	27.4	57.7
Female	88.8	79.0	62.6	44.2	33.1	26.6	57.8
Total	86.4	78.1	61.3	46.0	33.7	27.0	57.7
Occasional drinker							
Male	11.7	14.4	20.8	24.3	26.5	26.7	20.1
Female	8.4	13.3	20.6	25.6	28.0	28.9	20.2
Total	10.1	13.8	20.7	25.0	27.3	27.8	20.2
Light drinker							
Male	2.0	3.3	5.4	6.5	8.0	7.4	5.2
Female	1.4	3.6	4.8	6.7	6.1	6.7	4.8
Total	1.7	3.5	5.1	6.6	7.1	7.1	5.0
Party drinker							
Male	2.0	4.6	12.4	19.5	27.6	34.1	15.2
Female	1.4	3.9	11.4	22.7	31.6	36.7	16.6
Total	1.7	4.3	11.9	21.1	29.6	35.4	15.9
Heavy drinker							
Male	0.2	0.5	1.3	2.0	3.4	4.4	1.8
Female	0.1	0.2	0.6	0.8	1.3	1.0	0.6
Total	0.2	0.4	1.0	1.4	2.3	2.6	1.2

The majority of students aged 14 years and under saw themselves as non-drinkers.

The proportion of students seeing themselves as occasional drinkers or party drinkers increased with age and peaked among 17-year-olds at 28% for occasional drinker and 35% for party drinker.

Use of the term ‘party drinker’ did not differ for males and females.

Table 4.11 shows the relationship between the place where students consumed their last drink and how they obtained this last drink and the three most common labels for drinking: non-drinker, occasional drinker and party drinker.

Table 4.11: Where current drinkers using the label 'non-drinker', 'occasional drinker' and 'party drinker' consume alcohol and how they obtain it, Australia, 2008

	Non-drinker		Occasional drinker		Party drinker	
Age	12–15 (%)	16–17 (%)	12–15 (%)	16–17 (%)	12–15 (%)	16–17 (%)
Alcohol obtained from:						
Parents	57.3	57.5	44.7	43.2	17.1	24.9
Friends	14.0	16.2	20.8	22.7	29.6	21.4
Someone else bought it for me	1.7	3.9	8.5	16.1	29.1	31.8
Where alcohol was consumed:						
Home	49.2	52.6	44.4	40.9	16.1	16.8
Party	17.4	15.9	20.8	21.2	44.2	41.4
Friend's place	11.0	7.3	16.0	20.9	21.6	23.6

Non-drinkers and occasional drinkers mainly obtained their alcohol from their parents and mainly consumed it at their home.

About one-fifth of occasional drinkers consumed their last drink at a party and around 40% consumed the alcohol at home.

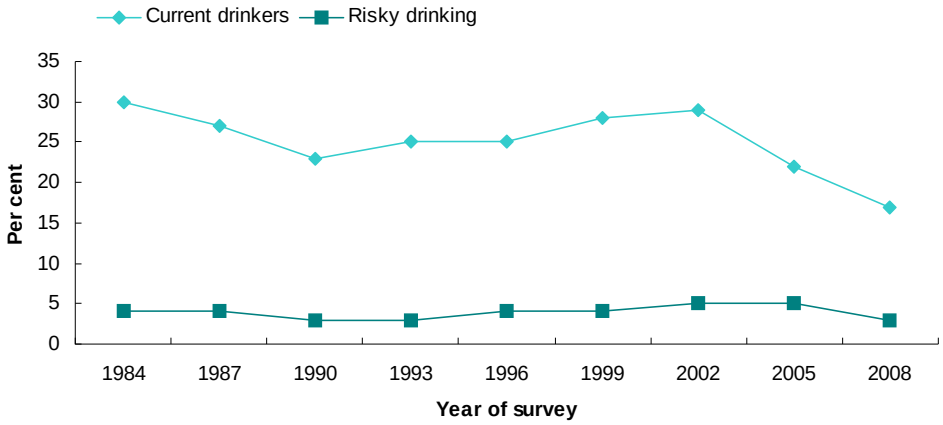
Around 40% of younger and older party drinkers consumed their last drink at a party.

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

In this section changes in the prevalence of alcohol consumption among younger (12- to 15-year-olds) and older (16- to 17-year-olds) students are examined. The key indicators of alcohol involvement examined are: lifetime use, use in the past month, use in the past week (current drinking) and risky drinking among all students and among current drinkers.

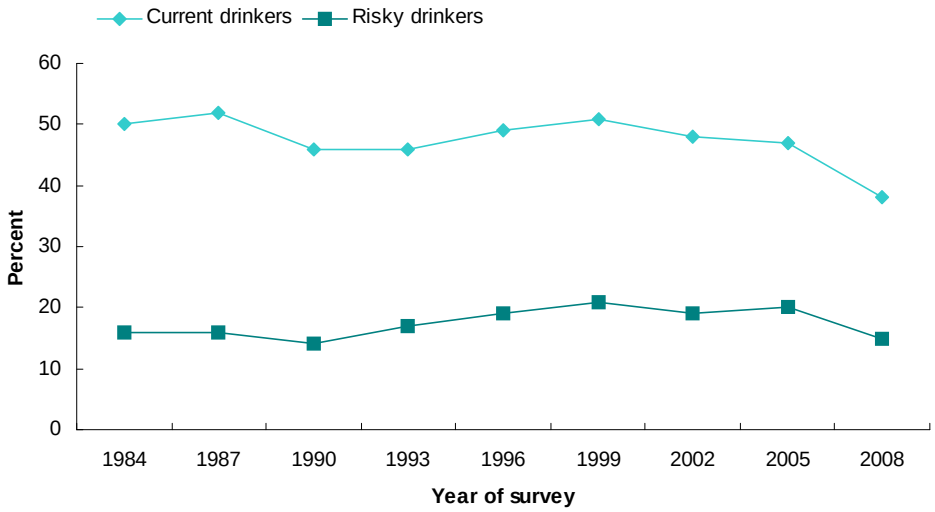
Figure 4.2 shows the proportion of all 12- to 15-year-olds in each survey year that consumed an alcoholic drink in the week prior to the survey, and the proportion drinking at risky levels. Figure 4.3 shows the results for 16- and 17-year-olds. The proportions shown in the figures are not adjusted for age.

Figure 4.2: Proportion of 12- to 15-year-olds drinking in the week before the survey (current drinkers) and proportion drinking at levels that could lead to short-term harm (risky drinking), 1984-2008



Among 12- to 15-year-olds, the prevalence of current drinking declined during the 1980s, then increased in the 1990s, peaking in 2002. Figure 4.2 suggests that among 12- to 15-year-olds, the prevalence of current drinking began to decrease after 2002 and this decrease has continued into 2008. The proportion of students who had consumed alcohol at risky levels on at least one day of the preceding seven days is shown in the lower part of the figure for each survey year. There was little change in the proportions drinking at risky levels over the survey period, although there seems to be a slight decrease between 2005 and 2008.

Figure 4.3: Proportion of 16- to 17-year-olds drinking in the week before the survey (current drinkers) and proportion drinking at levels that could lead to short-term harm (risky drinking), 1984-2008



Among 16- and 17-year-olds, the proportion of current drinkers decreased in the late 1980s, and then increased in the mid to late 1990s (Figure 4.3). The proportion of 16- and 17-year-olds who were current drinkers decreased slightly between 1999 and 2002 and this decrease continued into 2008. Among 16- and 17-year-olds, there was an

increase in risky drinking between 1990 and 1999, stabilisation between 1999 and 2005 and a slight decrease between 2005 and 2008.

Table 4.12 shows the proportion of 12- to 15-year-olds, 16- to 17-year-olds and 12- to 17-year-olds who had consumed alcohol in their lifetime, in the past month and the past week, as well as the proportion of students in these age groups who drank at risk of short-term harm in 2002, 2005 and 2008.

Table 4.12: Proportion of students using alcohol in their lifetime, in the previous month, in the previous week; proportion of all drinkers drinking at risky^ levels and proportion of current drinkers drinking at risky^ levels in 2002, 2005 and 2008, Australia

	12–15-year olds			16–17-year olds			12–17-year olds		
Recency period	2002 (%)	2005 (%)	2008 (%)	2002 (%)	2005 (%)	2008 (%)	2002 (%)	2005 (%)	2008 (%)
Lifetime									
Male	87.7**	83.4**	78.6	93.7	95.1	91.1	89.3**	86.5**	82.0
Female	84.6**	81.4**	78.2	94.0	94.2	92.3	87.2	85.0**	82.3
Total	86.1**	82.4**	78.4	93.9	94.6	91.7	88.3**	85.7**	82.1
Month									
Male	45.8**	35.6**	28.9	69.8**	70.0**	61.8	52.4**	44.6**	37.7
Female	39.5**	33.0**	27.5	65.6**	66.2**	59.0	46.7**	42.3**	36.4
Total	42.6**	34.4**	28.2	67.7**	68.1**	60.4	49.5**	43.4**	37.1
Week									
Male	31.5**	23.4**	17.1	51.4**	50.1**	41.4	36.9**	30.3**	23.6
Female	25.6**	20.0**	16.1	44.8**	44.8**	35.3	30.9**	26.9**	21.6
Total	28.5**	21.8**	16.6	48.0**	47.4**	38.3	33.9**	28.6**	22.6
Risky drinking^ among all students									
Male	5.0**	4.6**	2.8	21.1**	21.4**	15.6	9.4**	8.9**	6.3
Female	5.4**	4.7**	3.6	18.6	18.8**	14.7	9.1**	8.6**	6.7
Total	5.2**	4.6**	3.2	19.8**	20.1**	15.1	9.2**	8.8**	6.5
Risky drinking^ among current drinkers									
Male	15.8	19.6	16.5	41.0	42.7	37.6	25.4	29.5**	26.5
Female	21.2	23.3	22.1	41.5	42.0	41.6	29.3	31.9	31.3
Total	18.2	21.3	19.2	41.2	42.4	39.5	27.2	30.6	28.7

**Significantly different from 2008 at p <.01. ^Risky drinking for males defined as consuming 7 or more drinks on any day in the week before the survey and for females, consuming 5 or more drinks on any day in the past week.

For 12- to 15-year-olds, the proportions of all students and males and females who consumed alcohol in their lifetime, in the past month and past week in 2008 were significantly lower than in 2005 and 2002. The prevalence of risky drinking among all 12- to 15-year-olds in 2008 was significantly lower than the prevalence found in 2005 and 2002 ($p<.01$). However, among younger students who were current drinkers, the

proportion drinking at risky levels in 2008 was not different from the proportions found in 2005 and 2002.

Among 16- and 17-year-olds, the proportion of all students and male and female students consuming alcohol in the past month and past week in 2008 was significantly lower than the proportions found in 2005 and 2002 ($p<.01$).

While the proportion of all 16- and 17-year-olds who had consumed alcohol at risky levels in the week before the survey in 2008 was significantly lower than the proportions found in 2002 and 2005, there was no change in the proportion of current drinkers who had consumed alcohol at risky levels between 2002 and 2008.

Among 12- to 17-year-olds, the proportion of students drinking in their lifetime, in the past month, in the past week and at risky levels in the past week in 2008 were significantly lower than the proportions found in 2005 and 2002.

4.9.1 Changes in the type of alcohol consumed between 2002 and 2008

Changes in the proportion of current drinkers preferring beer, wine, premixed drinks or spirits between 2002 and 2005 are examined. Data from current drinkers who indicated that they consumed more than one type of drink are excluded. Table 4.13 shows the type of drinks preferred by current drinkers in 2002, 2005 and 2008.

Table 4.13: Percentage of male and female current drinkers aged 12–15 and 16–17 years drinking spirits, beer and premixed drinks in 2002, 2005 and 2008 (students who indicated more than one drink type excluded from analyses), Australia

	Age								
	12–15-year olds			16–17-year olds			12–17-year olds		
	2002 (%)	2005 (%)	2008 (%)	2002 (%)	2005 (%)	2008 (%)	2002 (%)	2005 (%)	2008 (%)
Male									
Spirits	37.0	39.2	35.4	39.0	38.8	35.0	37.8	39.1	35.2
Beer	25.0	29.3	29.3	36.8	38.5	40.6	29.7	33.3	34.7
Premixed[a]	17.6	11.7**	16.1	13.5	15.0	15.7	15.9	13.2	15.9
Female									
Spirits	27.5	32.4**	25.4	31.8	27.3	26.8	29.3	30.0	26.0
Beer	6.2	6.8	6.5	5.3	5.4	3.6	5.8	6.1	5.1
Premixed[a]	43.7	41.5	47.2	50.5	53.5	53.9	46.5	46.9	50.4

a: alcoholic sodas excluded from this category.
** Significantly different from 2008 at $p < .01$;

Among 12- to 15-year-olds, there was an increase in the proportion of male current drinkers consuming premixed drinks between 2005 and 2008. There was also a significant decrease in the proportion of younger female current drinkers drinking spirits between 2005 and 2008.

Among older current drinkers there was no change in the proportions consuming spirits, beer or premixed drinks between 2005 and 2008 or between 2002 and 2008.

5. Use of over-the-counter and illicit substances among Australian secondary students

5.1 Analgesics

Table 5.1 illustrates the use of analgesics in all time periods by age and gender.

Table 5.1: Analgesics: Percentage of students in each age and gender grouping using analgesics in each recency category, Australia 2008

	Age						
	12 (%)	13 (%)	14 (%)	15 (%)	16 (%)	17 (%)	Total (%)
Never used							
Male	8.4	5.9	6.7	5.8	5.1	4.6	6.2
Female	5.1	3.0	3.9	2.0	1.9	2.1	3.1
Total	6.8	4.5	5.3	3.9	3.5	3.3	4.7
Ever used							
Male	91.6	94.1	93.3	94.2	94.9	95.4	93.8
Female	94.9	97.0	96.1	98.0	98.1	97.9	96.9
Total	93.2	95.5	94.7	96.1	96.5	96.7	95.3
Used in past year							
Male	85.6	89.9	89.1	90.7	91.1	92.2	89.6
Female	90.9	94.9	94.5	96.6	96.7	96.8	95.0
Total	88.2	92.3	91.7	93.6	94.0	94.6	92.3
Used in past month							
Male	57.5	64.5	65.2	64.7	65.4	61.0	63.2
Female	65.2	72.8	77.3	81.2	82.2	84.2	76.7
Total	61.2	68.6	71.2	72.9	73.9	73.0	69.9
Used in past week							
Male	29.9	35.3	38.6	34.5	34.9	32.2	34.4
Female	37.6	42.4	46.7	52.2	51.4	51.8	46.7
Total	33.7	38.8	42.6	43.3	43.3	42.4	40.5

Prevalence estimates are within ± 2.9% of the true population values (see section 2.6). See Appendix 3 for 95% Confidence interval estimates for different proportions for each age and gender group.

The reported use and experience of substances such as aspirin among secondary school students was extremely high. Among the entire sample, only 5% of students had never used these medications.

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

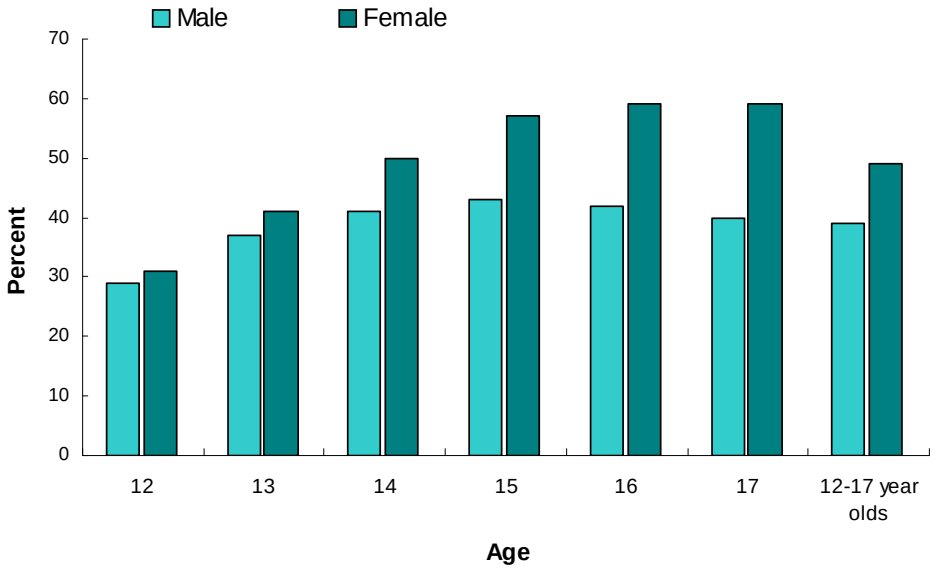
The proportion of students using analgesics in the week before the survey increased from 34% of 12-year-olds to 43% of 15- and 16-year-olds. This was more marked among females than males.

At all ages, females were significantly more likely to have used analgesics in their lifetime, in the past year, past month and past week.

Regularity of use: Of the students who had used analgesics in the past year, 49% of females and 39% of males had used analgesics 10 or more times in the previous year. Only 17% of males and 12% of females had used analgesics once or twice in the past year.

Among male students who had used analgesics in the past week, 70% had used them only once or twice, while 19% had used them 3–5 times in the previous week. Among females who had used analgesics in the past week, 67% had used them once or twice and 23% had used them 3–5 times.

Figure 5.1: Percentage of male and female students in each age group using analgesics 10 or more times in the past year, Australia 2008 (%)



Regular use: Figure 5.1 shows for males and females the proportion of students who had used analgesics 10 or more times in the past year. While the proportion of students using analgesics regularly, increased with age for both males and females, the increase for females was greater than that for males. While among 12-year-olds roughly the same proportion of males and females used analgesics regularly, by the age of 14 significantly more females than males were regular users of analgesics.

The results indicate that the use of analgesics was extremely common among secondary school students. Use in the past week increases with age, so that use in this time period was higher among older students. While ever use of analgesics was similar among males and females, use in the past week was more likely among female than male students.

Table 5.2 shows the most common reason for using the last analgesic among adolescents who had used analgesics in the past year.

Table 5.2: The main reasons for using the last analgesic among students using analgesics in the past year, Australia 2008*

	Age						
	12 (%)	13 (%)	14 (%)	15 (%)	16 (%)	17 (%)	Total (%)
Headache/ migraine							
Male	54.1	54.8	56.7	57.6	56.3	53.4	55.6
Female	55.4	52.0	53.8	52.5	53.6	54.2	53.5
Total	54.7	53.4	55.2	55.0	54.9	53.8	54.6
Relief of Cold/'Flu symptoms							
Male	29.2	29.0	27.7	27.0	27.4	29.8	28.3
Female	26.6	26.6	21.7	21.8	20.8	20.0	23.0
Total	27.9	27.8	24.6	24.3	24.0	24.6	25.6
Toothache/ Dental work pain							
Male	3.9	3.6	4.4	5.0	3.6	3.4	4.0
Female	5.1	7.3	6.4	5.7	5.0	4.7	5.8
Total	4.5	5.5	5.4	5.4	4.3	4.1	4.9
Menstrual pain							
Male	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Female	3.5	5.8	10.0	12.7	12.3	14.1	9.6
Total	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Pains from sport injury/strains							
Male	10.9	11.6	11.9	13.0	12.3	15.1	12.3
Female	7.2	6.8	7.3	7.8	7.0	6.0	7.0
Total	9.0	9.2	9.5	10.4	9.5	10.2	9.6

*Base: students using analgesics in past year

The most common reason for analgesic use for males and females was to help ease the pain associated with a headache/migraine and the second most common reason was to help ease symptoms of a cold or 'flu'. Males were more likely than females to report using an analgesic to help relieve pain from a sports injury. Around 10% of females reported using analgesics to help with menstrual pain.

Table 5.3 shows the most common ways adolescents access analgesics.

Table 5.3 Most common sources of analgesics for those students who used analgesics in the past year, Australia 2008*

	Age						
	12 (%)	13 (%)	14 (%)	15 (%)	16 (%)	17 (%)	Total (%)
Parents							
Male	91.3	92.3	89.5	88.1	82.6	77.2	87.4
Female	94.3	92.0	87.3	82.8	77.0	71.1	84.6
Total	92.8	92.1	88.4	85.4	79.7	74.0	86.0
Took from home							
Male	1.8	1.7	3.3	4.1	6.3	9.0	4.2
Female	1.0	2.4	4.8	6.0	8.4	9.8	5.2
Total	1.4	2.0	4.0	5.3	7.4	9.4	4.7
Bought							
Male	0.3	0.6	0.7	2.0	4.1	5.5	2.0
Female	0.3	0.6	2.4	4.5	7.4	11.8	4.2
Total	0.3	0.6	1.5	3.3	5.8	8.9	3.1
Friends							
Male	0.4	0.3	0.5	0.4	1.0	1.0	0.6
Female	0.5	0.9	0.8	1.7	1.7	1.8	1.2
Total	0.5	0.6	0.6	1.0	1.4	1.4	0.9

*Base: students using analgesics in past year

In 2008, adolescents mainly obtained analgesics they used from their parents.

Around 5% of students took the analgesic from home without permission and around 3% reported buying the analgesic. Girls aged over 15 years were more likely to report buying analgesics than were boys the same age.

5.1.1 Changes in the prevalence of analgesic use between 2002 and 2008

Table 5.4 presents the proportion of 12- to 15-year-olds, 16- to 17-year-olds, and 12- to 17-year-olds who had used analgesics in their lifetime, in the past month and in the past week in each survey year between 2002 and 2008.

Table 5.4: Percentage of students using analgesics in their lifetime, in the past month or in the past week in 2002, 2005 and 2008, Australia

	12–15-year olds			16–17-year olds			12–17-year olds		
Recency period	2002 (%)	2005 (%)	2008 (%)	2002 (%)	2005 (%)	2008 (%)	2002 (%)	2005 (%)	2008 (%)
Lifetime									
Male	93.3	92.4	93.3	95.7	95.6	95.2	94.0	93.2	93.8
Female	95.4	95.7	96.6	98.1	98.1	98.0	96.2	96.4	97.0
Total	94.4	94.0	95.0	96.9	96.9	96.6	95.1	95.8	95.4
Month									
Male	63.1	62.3	63.2	63.0	65.0	63.7	63.0	63.0	63.3
Female	74.0	74.2	74.2	81.8	81.9	83.1	76.2	76.4	76.8
Total	68.7	68.2	68.6	72.6	73.7	73.6	69.7	69.7	70.0
Week									
Male									
Female	35.5	34.6	34.7	33.6	34.2	33.7	35.0	34.5	34.4
Total	43.0	44.3	44.8	53.2	50.7	51.6	45.8	46.1	46.8

The proportion of students using analgesics in their lifetime, in the past month and in the past week in 2008 was similar to the proportions found in 2002 and 2005.

5.2 Tranquillisers

Table 5.5 illustrates the use of tranquillisers other than for medical reasons in all time periods by age and gender.

Table 5.5: Tranquillisers: Percentage of students in each age and gender grouping using tranquillisers in each recency category, Australia 2008

	Age						
	12 (%)	13 (%)	14 (%)	15 (%)	16 (%)	17 (%)	Total (%)
Never used							
Male	86.1	84.4	85.1	82.6	82.3	80.9	83.8
Female	88.0	84.9	80.9	78.0	80.2	80.6	82.2
Total	87.1	84.6	83.1	80.3	81.2	80.7	83.0
Ever used							
Male	13.9	15.6	14.9	17.4	17.7	19.1	16.2
Female	12.0	15.1	19.1	22.0	19.8	19.4	17.8
Total	12.9	15.4	16.9	19.7	18.8	19.3	17.0
Used in past year							
Male	7.1	8.2	8.4	10.1	10.0	11.1	9.0
Female	5.9	8.1	11.6	13.7	12.6	12.3	10.5
Total	6.5	8.1	10.0	11.9	11.3	11.7	9.8
Used in past month							
Male	3.4	4.0	4.3	4.3	4.0	4.9	4.1
Female	2.3	3.3	3.9	5.6	4.3	4.2	3.9
Total	2.9	3.7	4.1	4.9	4.2	4.5	4.0
Used in past week							
Male	2.6	2.2	2.9	2.3	1.9	3.3	2.5
Female	1.0	2.1	2.2	3.0	1.9	2.4	2.1
Total	1.8	2.2	2.6	2.6	1.9	2.8	2.3

Prevalence estimates are within ± 2.9% of the true population values (see section 2.6). See Appendix 3 for 95% Confidence interval estimates for different proportions for each age and gender group.

Around 17% of students had used tranquillisers other than for medical reasons at some point in their life. The proportions of students ever using tranquillisers increased from 13% of 12-year-olds to around 19% of 15- to 17-year-olds.

Use in the past month was low in all ages reaching only 5% among students aged 15 and 17.

Across all ages, around 2% of secondary school students had used tranquillisers in the week before the survey.

While the use of tranquillisers was slightly higher among female students than male students, these differences were only significant for lifetime use and use in the past year among 14- and 15-year-olds, and use in the past month among 15-year-olds.

Regularity of use: Of the 10% of students who had used tranquillisers in the previous year, around 54% of males and 59% of females had used them only once or twice, while around 18% of males and females had used them 3–5 times. There was little variation across age groups in these proportions. The proportion of all students using tranquillisers 10 or more times in the previous year was, at 1.6% for males and 1.4% for females, negligible.

5.2.1 Changes in the prevalence of tranquilliser use between 2002 and 2008

Table 5.6 presents the proportion of 12- to 15-year-olds, 16- to 17-year-olds, and 12- to 17-year-olds who had used tranquillisers in their lifetime, in the past month and in the past week in each survey year between 2002 and 2008.

Table 5.6: Percentage of students using tranquillisers in their lifetime, in the past month or in the past week in 2002, 2005 and 2008, Australia

	12–15-year olds			16–17-year olds			12–17-year olds		
Recency period	2002 (%)	2005 (%)	2008 (%)	2002 (%)	2005 (%)	2008 (%)	2002 (%)	2005 (%)	2008 (%)
Lifetime	15.9	14.4	15.4	17.3	15.7	18.3	16.3	14.8	16.2
Male	15.2**	14.7**	17.0	18.7	17.5	19.6	16.1**	15.5**	17.8
Female	15.5	14.6**	16.2	18.0	16.7**	19.0	16.2	15.1**	17.0
Total									
Month	3.8	4.1	4.0	4.2	3.0**	4.4	4.0	3.8	4.1
Male	3.6	3.6	3.8	5.5	4.3	4.2	4.1	3.8	3.9
Female	3.7	3.8	3.9	4.8	3.7	4.3	4.1	3.8	4.0
Total									
Week	2.3	2.3	2.5	2.8	1.7	2.5	2.5	2.2	2.5
Male	2.1	2.0	2.1	2.5	2.4	2.1	2.2	2.1	2.1
Female									
Total	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.6	2.1	2.3	2.3	2.1	2.3

** Significantly different from 2008 at p <.01;

For 12- to 15-year-olds, the prevalence of lifetime use of tranquillisers increased between 2005 and 2008. Most of this increase in lifetime use was due to a rise in the use of tranquillisers among females between 2005 and 2008 and between 2002 and 2008.

For 12- to 15-year olds there was no change in the proportion of students reporting having used tranquillisers in the month and week before the survey.

Among 16- and 17-year-old students, there was an increase in the proportion of students who had used tranquillisers in their lifetime between 2005 and 2008.

There was little change in the proportion of 16- and 17-year-old students using tranquillisers in the month and week before the survey between 2002 and 2008.

5.3 Cannabis

Table 5.7 shows the proportion of students using cannabis in all time periods by age and gender.

Table 5.7: Cannabis: Percentage of students in each age and gender grouping using cannabis in each recency category, Australia 2008.

	Age						
	12 (%)	13 (%)	14 (%)	15 (%)	16 (%)	17 (%)	Total (%)
Never used							
Male	95.7	94.5	87.8	82.1	74.9	71.6	85.6
Female	97.9	94.3	89.6	82.4	79.3	75.8	87.3
Total	96.8	94.5	88.7	82.3	77.1	73.8	86.4
Ever used							
Male	4.3	5.5	12.2	17.9	25.1	28.4	14.4
Female	2.1	5.7	10.4	17.6	20.7	24.2	12.7
Total	3.2	5.5	11.3	17.7	22.9	26.2	13.6
Used in past year							
Male	2.9	3.8	10.2	15.4	21.6	24.0	12.0
Female	1.0	4.5	8.8	15.6	18.3	19.4	10.7
Total	2.0	4.1	9.5	15.5	19.9	21.6	11.4
Used in past month							
Male	1.5	2.2	6.4	8.6	12.5	13.7	6.9
Female	0.5	2.2	4.9	8.1	9.1	8.8	5.4
Total	1.0	2.2	5.7	8.4	10.8	11.2	6.2
Used in past week							
Male	1.0	1.7	4.2	5.9	8.1	8.2	4.5
Female	0.3	1.2	2.4	4.3	4.0	3.2	2.5
Total	0.6	1.5	3.3	5.1	6.0	5.6	3.5

Prevalence estimates are within ± 2.9% of the true population values (see section 2.6). See Appendix 3 for 95% Confidence interval estimates for different proportions for each age and gender group.

Cannabis was the most commonly used illicit substance among secondary school students, especially among those in the older age groups. Fourteen per cent of secondary students surveyed had used cannabis at some time in their lives.

In all time periods, the proportion of students using cannabis increased with age.

Use of cannabis in the past month increased significantly with increasing age, from 1% of students aged 12, to 11% of 17-year-olds.

Across all age groups around 4% of students had used cannabis in the previous week.

In all time periods, more males than females had used cannabis. These differences were statistically significant for the 12-, 16- and 17-year-olds for lifetime use, use in the past year and past month and for the 14-, 16- and 17-year-olds for use in the past week.

Type of cannabis used and where used: Students who had used cannabis in the past year were asked to indicate whether they usually smoked it as a joint, used a bong or ate it. Bongs were the most common way of using cannabis, with 59% of males and 56% of females who had used cannabis in the past year indicating that this was how they usually used it. Joints were used by 41% of females and 38% of males. Most commonly, adolescents used cannabis with others. Seventy-nine per cent of males and 85% of females who had used cannabis in the past year, used it with others. While 3% of males and 2% of females indicated that they usually used cannabis by themselves, 12% of males and 7% of females indicated that they used it by themselves or with others about equally often. Cannabis was most commonly used at a friend's place (38% of males and 41% of females), a party (24% of males and 24% of females), at the student's own home (11% of males and 11% of females) and at a park (11% of males and 10% of females).

Regularity of use: Among the 11% of students who reported using cannabis in the previous year, 36% of males and 41% of females had used it only once or twice. Thirty-four per cent of males and 25% of females who had used cannabis in the previous year 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 and the proportion of regular users at each age is shown in Figure 5.2.

Among all students, regular use increased with age from 1% of males and females aged 13, to around 8% of males aged 16 and 17 years and 5% of 16-year-old females.

Figure 5.2: Percentage of all male and female students in each age group who had used cannabis at least 10 times in the previous year, Australia 2008 (%)

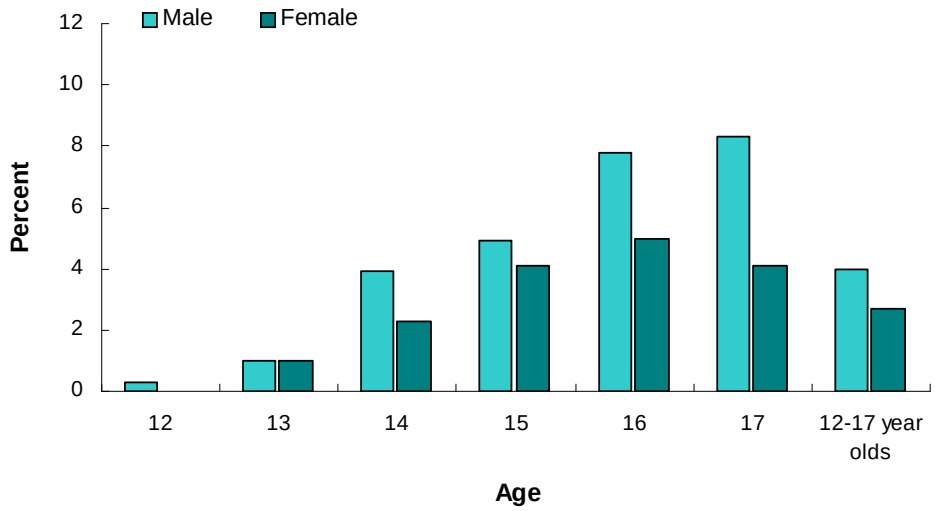
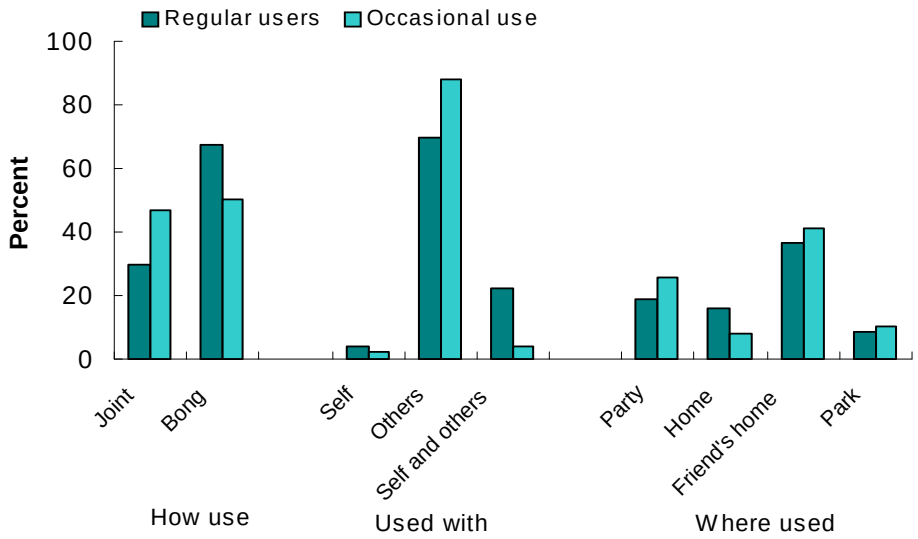


Figure 5.3 shows how regular users and occasional users used cannabis, who they used it with and where it was generally used.

Figure 5.3: How cannabis is used, who cannabis is used with and where cannabis is used, among students who have used cannabis regularly or occasionally in the past year, Australia 2008 (%)



Regular users of cannabis were more likely to use a bong than were occasional users who were more likely to smoke cannabis as a joint.

While the majority of both regular and occasional users used cannabis with others, more regular users (22%) than occasional users (4%) indicated that they used cannabis about equally often by themselves and with others ($p<.01$).

Occasional users were more likely than regular users to use cannabis at a party ($p<.01$), while regular users (16%) were more likely than occasional users (8%) to use cannabis in their own home ($p<.01$).

5.3.1 Changes in the prevalence of cannabis use between 2002 and 2008

The proportions of students using cannabis in their lifetime, in the past month or in the past week in 2002, 2005 and 2008 are shown in Table 5.8.

Table 5.8: Percentage of students using cannabis in their lifetime, in the past month or in the past week in 2002, 2005 and 2008, Australia

	12–15-year olds			16–17-year olds			12–17-year olds		
Recency period	2002 (%)	2005 (%)	2008 (%)	2002 (%)	2005 (%)	2008 (%)	2002 (%)	2005 (%)	2008 (%)
Lifetime									
Male	21.8**	14.6**	9.9	42.2**	32.9**	26.5	27.4**	19.4**	14.4
Female	17.3**	11.0**	8.9	36.3**	29.3**	22.2	22.6**	16.1**	12.7
Total	19.4**	12.8**	9.4	39.2**	31.1**	24.3	25.0**	17.8**	13.6
Month									
Male	10.5**	6.6**	4.7	20.1**	14.3	13.0	13.2**	8.7**	6.9
Female	7.8**	4.4	3.9	14.8**	8.9	9.0	9.7**	5.6	5.4
Total	9.1**	5.5**	4.3	17.4**	11.5	10.9	11.4**	7.2	6.2
Week									
Male	6.5**	4.4**	3.2	11.5	8	8.2	7.9**	5.4	4.5
Female	4.2**	2.6	2.0	8.0**	3.9	3.6	5.2**	2.9	2.5
Total	5.3**	3.5**	2.6	9.7**	5.9	5.9	6.5**	4.2	3.5

** Significantly different from 2008 at p <.01;

For all 12- to 15-year-olds, significantly fewer students had used cannabis in each of the time periods in 2008 than in all previous surveys. This decrease was seen for males for all recency periods for both 2002 and 2008 and 2005 and 2008. For females the proportion using cannabis in their lifetime was significantly lower than the proportions in 2002 and 2008, while the proportion using cannabis in the past month and past week in 2008 was only significantly lower than the proportions in 2002.

Older students in 2008 were significantly less likely to have used cannabis in their lifetime than in 2005 and 2002. Older students in 2008 were significantly less likely to use cannabis in the past month and past week than were students surveyed in 2002.

5.4 Inhalants

Table 5.9 illustrates the use of inhalants in all time periods by age and gender.

Table 5.9: Inhalants: Percentage of students in each age and gender grouping using inhalants in each recency category, Australia 2008

	Age						
	12 (%)	13 (%)	14 (%)	15 (%)	16 (%)	17 (%)	Total (%)
Never used							
Male	77.7	80.3	81.0	83.1	84.5	85.3	81.7
Female	77.0	77.8	77.9	81.7	85.6	87.1	80.8
Total	77.3	79.1	79.5	82.4	85.0	86.3	81.3
Ever used							
Male	22.3	19.7	19.0	16.9	15.5	14.7	18.3
Female	23.0	22.2	22.1	18.3	14.4	12.9	19.2
Total	22.7	20.9	20.5	17.6	15.0	13.7	18.7
Used in past year							
Male	15.5	14.0	14.4	11.8	10.4	9.5	12.9
Female	17.0	16.5	16.9	13.7	10.1	8.1	14.1
Total	16.2	15.3	15.6	12.7	10.2	8.8	13.5
Used in past month							
Male	10.5	8.3	8.6	7.0	5.4	5.0	7.7
Female	11.1	10.7	9.6	7.6	4.6	3.1	8.1
Total	10.8	9.5	9.1	7.3	5.0	4.0	7.9
Used in past week							
Male	7.7	5.1	4.9	4.3	3.0	3.1	4.8
Female	6.9	6.6	5.7	4.6	2.5	2.1	4.9
Total	7.3	5.9	5.3	4.4	2.7	2.6	4.9

Prevalence estimates are within ± 2.9% of the true population values (see section 2.6). See Appendix 3 for 95% Confidence interval estimates for different proportions for each age and gender group.

Less than 20% of all students had deliberately sniffed inhalants at least once during their lives. While 14% had used inhalants at some time in the past year, 8% of students had done so within the past month. Use in the week preceding the survey was reported by 5% of all students.

Inhalant use was related to age. However, unlike the pattern seen for other substances, prevalence decreased significantly from the youngest to the oldest students. While just over one-fifth (23%) of 12-year-old students had ever used inhalants, this proportion decreased to 14% for those aged 17.

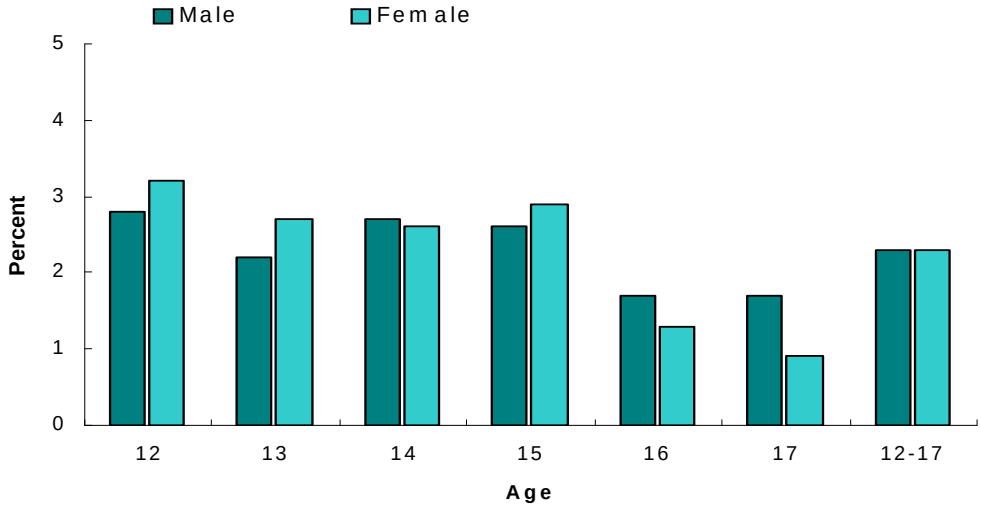
Use within the past month decreased from 11% of 12-year-olds to 4% of students aged 17.

There were few significant differences in the use of inhalants between male and female secondary school students. More females than males aged 14 had ever used inhalants and had used them in the past year.

Regularity of use: Around half of the 14% of students who had used inhalants in the previous year had used them on only one or two occasions (47% of males and 51% of females). Around 23% of males and 21% of females indicated they had used inhalants 3–5 times in the previous year. Eighteen per cent of males and 16% of females who had used inhalants in the past year reported using inhalants 10 or more times in the that year.

Figure 5.4 shows the proportion of all male and female students in each age group having used inhalants 10 or more times in the past year. Regular use of inhalants among secondary school students is low, with around 3% of 12-year-olds and around 1% of 17-year-olds using these substances regularly.

Figure 5.4: 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 2008 (%)



5.4.1 Changes in the prevalence of inhalant use between 2002 and 2008

Among 12- to 15-year-olds, the 20% of students who had used inhalants in their lifetime in 2008 was not different from the proportion found in 2005 (19%) but was lower than the 23% found in 2002 ($p<.01$). In 2008, 9% of 12- to 15-year-old students had used inhalants in the previous month, which was the same as in 2005 (9%) and lower than the 11% found in 2002 ($p<.01$). Among 16- to 17-year-olds, significantly more students had used inhalants in their lifetime in 2008 (14%) than in 2005 (11%), but there was no difference to the proportion found in 2002 (14%). The proportion of older students reporting use in the previous month in 2008 (5%) was higher than the 3% found in 2005 ($p<.01$) but no different from the 4% found in 2002.

When data were combined for all students surveyed aged between 12 and 17 years, analyses found that the proportion of students using inhalants in their lifetime (19%) in 2008 were significantly higher than the proportion found in 2005 (17%) ($p<.01$) but not different from the proportion found in 2002. For use in the past month, the 8% found in 2008 was not different from the 7% found in 2005, but was lower than the 9% found in 2002 ($p<.01$).

5.5 Hallucinogens

Table 5.10 illustrates the use of hallucinogens such as LSD in all time periods by age and gender.

Table 5.10: Hallucinogens: Percentage of students in each age and gender grouping using hallucinogens in each recency category, Australia 2008

	Age						
	12 (%)	13 (%)	14 (%)	15 (%)	16 (%)	17 (%)	Total (%)
Never used							
Male	98.7	98.4	96.7	95.6	94.5	92.9	96.4
Female	99.4	98.3	97.8	96.8	96.0	96.5	97.5
Total	99.1	98.4	97.2	96.2	95.2	94.8	97.0
Ever used							
Male	1.3	1.6	3.3	4.4	5.5	7.1	3.6
Female	0.6	1.7	2.2	3.2	4.0	3.5	2.5
Total	0.9	1.6	2.8	3.8	4.8	5.2	3.0
Used in past year							
Male	0.9	1.1	2.4	3.4	4.9	5.6	2.8
Female	0.5	0.9	1.9	2.5	3.2	2.6	1.9
Total	0.7	1.0	2.2	2.9	4.0	4.0	2.4
Used in past month							
Male	0.4	0.9	1.6	2.3	2.9	2.8	1.7
Female	0.4	0.6	0.6	1.1	1.2	0.9	0.8
Total	0.4	0.7	1.1	1.7	2.0	1.8	1.3

[#] Prevalence estimates are within ± 2.9% of the true population values (see section 2.6). See Appendix 3 for 95% Confidence interval estimates for different proportions for each age and gender group.

The use of hallucinogens such as LSD among secondary school students was rare. While 3% of all secondary school students had ever used hallucinogens, the proportion increased significantly with age, from 1% of 12-year-old students to 5% of 17-year-olds.

Only 2% of all students reported having used hallucinogens at some time in the past year and only 1% indicated they had used hallucinogens in the previous month.

An examination of the pattern of gender differences for hallucinogen use showed that generally more males than females had used these substances. For lifetime use and use in the past year, these differences were significant for 16- and 17-year-olds. In addition significantly more males than females, for all ages between 14 and 17, indicated that they had used hallucinogens in the past month ($p<.01$).

Regularity of use: The majority of the 2% of students who reported having used hallucinogens in the previous year had used them infrequently. Forty-nine per cent of males and 65% of females indicated they had used hallucinogens only once or twice in the previous year.

5.5.1 Changes in the prevalence of hallucinogen use between 2002 and 2008

Table 5.11 shows the proportion of students using hallucinogens in their lifetime and in the previous month in each survey year between 2002 and 2008.

Table 5.11: Percentage of students using hallucinogens, in their lifetime and in the past month in 2002, 2005 and 2008, Australia

	12–15-year olds			16–17-year olds			12–17-year olds		
Recency period	2002 (%)	2005 (%)	2008 (%)	2002 (%)	2005 (%)	2008 (%)	2002 (%)	2005 (%)	2008 (%)
Lifetime									
Male	4.4**	3.9**	2.6	6.7	5.7	6.2	5.1**	4.3	3.6
Female	2.9**	1.7	1.9	5.6	3.3	3.8	3.7**	2.1	2.5
Total	3.7**	2.8	2.3	6.1	4.5	5.0	4.4**	3.2	3.0
Month									
Male	2.1**	2.0	1.3	2.0	2.0	2.9	2.1	2.0	1.7
Female	1.1	0.6	0.7	1.2	0.7	1.0	1.1	0.7	0.8
Total	1.6**	1.3	1.0	1.6	1.3	1.9	1.6	1.3	1.3

** Significantly different from 2008 $p < .01$.

Among 12- to 15-year-old students, the proportion ever using hallucinogens in their lifetime in 2008 was significantly lower than the proportion found in 2002. The decrease in lifetime use among 12- to 15-year-olds translated into a decrease in use in the past month. However the proportion of 12- to 15-year-old students using hallucinogens in their lifetime and in the past month in 2008 was not significantly different from the proportions found in 2005.

Among 16- to 17-year-olds, there was no significant change in the proportion using hallucinogens in their lifetime between 2002 and 2008. Recent use of hallucinogens among older students also had not changed significantly between 2002 and 2008 or between 2005 and 2008.

For all students aged 12 to 17 years, there was a significant decrease in lifetime use of hallucinogens between 2002 and 2008 but there was no change between 2005 and 2008. There was little change in the proportion of all students using hallucinogens in the past month between 2002 and 2008.

5.6 Amphetamines

Table 5.12 illustrates the use of amphetamines in all time periods by age and gender. The behaviour reported here is supposed to exclude any medically supervised use.

Table 5.12: Amphetamines: Percentage of students in each age and gender grouping using amphetamines in each recency category, Australia 2008

	Age						
	12 (%)	13 (%)	14 (%)	15 (%)	16 (%)	17 (%)	Total (%)
Never used							
Male	98.2	98.1	97.0	95.7	94.0	92.6	96.2
Female	98.5	98.0	96.8	96.2	95.1	92.9	96.4
Total	98.4	98.0	96.9	95.9	94.6	92.8	96.3
Ever used							
Male	1.8	1.9	3.0	4.3	6.0	7.4	3.8
Female	1.5	2.0	3.2	3.8	4.9	7.1	3.6
Total	1.6	2.0	3.1	4.1	5.4	7.2	3.7
Used in past year							
Male	1.4	1.3	2.2	3.6	5.0	6.5	3.1
Female	1.2	1.3	2.8	3.4	4.1	5.3	2.9
Total	1.3	1.3	2.5	3.5	4.5	5.9	3.0
Used in past month							
Male	0.7	0.7	1.3	2.4	2.6	3.2	1.7
Female	0.6	0.7	1.3	1.7	2.1	1.8	1.3
Total	0.7	0.7	1.3	2.0	2.3	2.5	1.5

Prevalence estimates are within ± 2.9% of the true population values (see section 2.6). See Appendix 3 for 95% Confidence interval estimates for different proportions for each age and gender group.

The majority of secondary school students (96%) had never used amphetamines. The proportions of students who had ever used these substances increased significantly with age, from 2% of 12-year-olds to 7% of students aged 17 years.

Around 3% of all students surveyed had used amphetamines in the past year; this proportion was highest among the older students, increasing from 1% of 12-year-olds to 6% of those aged 17 years. Use in the past month was very low for all age groups.

Regularity of use: Of the 3% of students who reported using amphetamines in the year prior to the study, 41% of males and 55% of females had used them only once or twice.

5.6.1 Changes in the prevalence of amphetamine use between 2002 and 2008

The proportion of students using amphetamines in 2002, 2005 and 2008 is shown in Table 5.13.

Table 5.13: Percentage of students using amphetamines in their lifetime and in the past month in 2002, 2005 and 2008, Australia

	12–15-year olds			16–17-year olds			12–17-year olds		
Recency period	2002 (%)	2005 (%)	2008 (%)	2002 (%)	2005 (%)	2008 (%)	2002 (%)	2005 (%)	2008 (%)
Lifetime									
Male	5.9**	5.1**	2.8	10.0**	8.4	6.6	7.1**	6.0**	3.8
Female	4.6**	3.6**	2.6	10.5**	7.3	5.8	6.3**	4.7**	3.6
Total	5.3**	4.4**	2.7	10.3**	7.8	6.2	6.6**	5.3**	3.7
Month									
Male	2.8**	2.8**	1.3	3.4	3.4	2.8	3.0**	3.0**	1.7
Female	1.7**	1.6**	1.1	3.4**	2.1	2.0	2.2**	1.8*	1.3
Total	2.2**	2.2**	1.2	3.5	2.8	2.4	2.6**	2.4**	1.5

** Significantly different from 2008 p<.01.

For 12- to 15-year-olds, lifetime use of amphetamines and use in the past month in 2008 was significantly lower than proportions found in 2005 and 2002. These decreases were consistent for males and females.

Among 16- to 17-year-olds, the proportion of students reporting lifetime use of amphetamines in 2008 was significantly lower than the proportion found in 2002 but not 2005. This pattern of results was consistent for both males and females. While the proportion of 16- to 17-year-olds using amphetamines in the past month in 2008 was slightly lower than those found in 2002 and 2005, these differences were not statistically significant.

Among all 12- to 17-year-olds, the proportion of students using amphetamines in their lifetime in 2008 was significantly lower than the proportion found in 2005 ($p<.01$) and 2002 ($p<.01$). Similarly, the proportion of all students reporting monthly use of amphetamines in 2008 was lower than the proportion found in 2005 and 2002 ($p<.01$).

5.7 Steroids

Table 5.14 shows the proportion of students using steroids without a doctor's prescription in an attempt to improve sporting ability, increase muscle size or improve appearance, in all time periods by age and gender.

Table 5.14: Steroids: Percentage of students in each age and gender group reporting use of steroids without a doctor's prescription in an attempt to improve sporting ability, increase muscle size or improve appearance, by age and gender, Australia 2008

	Age						
	12 (%)	13 (%)	14 (%)	15 (%)	16 (%)	17 (%)	Total (%)
Never used							
Male	97.0	97.7	97.1	95.7	97.0	96.6	96.9
Female	98.5	97.8	97.6	98.6	98.5	98.8	98.3
Total	97.8	97.7	97.4	97.1	97.7	97.7	97.6
Ever used							
Male	3.0	2.3	2.9	4.3	3.0	3.4	3.1
Female	1.5	2.2	2.4	1.4	1.5	1.2	1.7
Total	2.2	2.3	2.6	2.9	2.3	2.3	2.4
Used in past year							
Male	2.2	1.2	2.0	3.4	2.5	2.7	2.3
Female	1.0	1.0	1.7	1.0	1.1	0.9	1.1
Total	1.6	1.1	1.8	2.3	1.8	1.8	1.7
Used in past month							
Male	1.4	0.9	1.5	2.6	1.6	2.2	1.7
Female	0.6	0.4	0.8	0.6	0.4	0.7	0.6
Total	1.0	0.6	1.1	1.6	1.0	1.4	1.1

Prevalence estimates are within ± 2.9% of the true population values (see section 2.6). See Appendix 3 for 95% Confidence interval estimates for different proportions for each age and gender group.

The use of steroids without a prescription among secondary school students was very low, and across the six age groups there was no significant difference in the proportions of students reporting use in any of the time periods. Both use in the past year and use in the past month were stable at around 1–2% across the six age groups. Only 1% of students across all age groups reported that they had used steroids without a prescription in the month before the survey.

Males were significantly more likely than females to have ever used steroids, to have used them in the past year and in the past month from the age of 15.

Regularity of use: Among the 2% of students who had used steroids in the year before the survey, use was infrequent. Among males, 36% had used these substances only once or twice, with a further 18% using them 3–5 times. Among females, 50% had only used them once or twice, with a further 19% using them 3–5 times.

5.7.1 Changes in the prevalence of steroid use between 2002 and 2008

There was little change in the proportions of younger and older students using steroids between 2002 and 2008. The proportion of 12- to 15-year-olds and 16- to 17-year-olds using steroids at some time in their life had not changed significantly between 2002 and 2008. There was also no change in the proportion of students indicating they had used steroids in the month prior to the survey.

5.8 Opiates

Table 5.15 illustrates the use of opiates other than for medical reasons in all time periods by age and gender.

Table 5.15: Opiates: Percentage of students in each age and gender grouping using opiates other than for medical reasons in each recency category, Australia 2008

	Age						
	12 (%)	13 (%)	14 (%)	15 (%)	16 (%)	17 (%)	Total (%)
Never used							
Male	98.4	98.3	97.5	97.2	97.1	97.2	97.7
Female	99.0	98.0	97.5	97.9	98.1	98.3	98.1
Total	98.7	98.1	97.5	97.5	97.6	97.7	97.9
Ever used							
Male	1.6	1.7	2.5	2.8	2.9	2.8	2.3
Female	1.0	2.0	2.5	2.1	1.9	1.7	1.9
Total	1.3	1.9	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.3	2.1
Used in past year							
Male	0.9	1.0	1.7	2.2	2.4	2.3	1.7
Female	0.5	1.3	1.8	1.6	1.3	1.0	1.2
Total	0.7	1.1	1.7	1.9	1.8	1.6	1.5
Used in past month							
Male	0.5	0.7	1.3	1.6	1.5	1.4	1.2
Female	0.3	0.7	0.9	0.8	0.6	0.4	0.6
Total	0.4	0.7	1.1	1.2	1.0	0.9	0.9

Prevalence estimates are within ± 2.9% of the true population values (see section 2.6). See Appendix 3 for 95% Confidence interval estimates for different proportions for each age and gender group.

A small proportion (2%) of secondary school students had ever used opiates or narcotics such as heroin or morphine other than for medical reasons.

Less than 2% of students reported using opiates in the past year.

Regularity of use: Of the 2% of students who reported having used opiates in the year prior to the survey, 43% of males and 61% of females had used these substances only once or twice.

5.8.1 Changes in the prevalence of opiate use between 2002 and 2008

Table 5.16 shows the proportion of students indicating they had used opiates in their lifetime or in the past month, in 2002, 2005 and 2008.

Table 5.16: Percentage of students who had used opiates in their lifetime or in the past month in 2002, 2005 and 2008, Australia

	12–15-year olds			16–17-year olds			12–17-year olds		
Recency period	2002 (%)	2005 (%)	2008 (%)	2002 (%)	2005 (%)	2008 (%)	2002 (%)	2005 (%)	2008 (%)
Lifetime	3.3**	2.7	2.1	2.8	2.5	2.9	3.2**	2.7	2.3
Male	2.3	2.2	1.9	2.5	2.1	1.8	2.4	2.2	1.9
Female	2.8**	2.5	2.0	2.6	2.3	2.3	2.8**	2.4	2.1
Total									
Month	1.8**	1.5	1.0	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.7	1.5	1.2
Male	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.6
Female									
Total	1.2	1.1	0.8	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.0	0.9

** Significantly different from 2008 at p <.01

Among all 12- to 15-year-olds, the proportion indicating they had used opiates in their lifetime was significantly less than the proportion reporting use in 2002 ($p<.01$), but not 2005. The proportion of students reporting to have used opiates in the month before the survey in 2008 was not different from the proportions found in 2002 or 2005.

There was no change in the proportion of 16- to 17-year-olds reporting lifetime and past month use of opiates between 2002 and 2008.

5.9 Cocaine

Table 5.17 illustrates the use of cocaine in all time periods by age and gender.

Table 5.17: Cocaine: Percentage of students in each age and gender grouping using cocaine in each recency category, Australia 2008

	Age						
	12 (%)	13 (%)	14 (%)	15 (%)	16 (%)	17 (%)	Total (%)
Never used							
Male	98.5	99.1	97.5	96.4	95.8	95.0	97.2
Female	99.0	98.3	97.7	98.1	97.4	96.7	97.9
Total	98.8	98.7	97.6	97.2	96.6	95.9	97.6
Ever used							
Male	1.5	0.9	2.5	3.6	4.2	5.0	2.8
Female	1.0	1.7	2.3	1.9	2.6	3.3	2.1
Total	1.2	1.3	2.4	2.8	3.4	4.1	2.4
Used in past year							
Male	1.2	0.7	1.9	3.1	3.4	4.0	2.2
Female	0.7	1.2	1.9	1.6	2.0	2.4	1.6
Total	0.9	0.9	1.9	2.3	2.7	3.2	1.9
Used in past month							
Male	1.0	0.5	1.5	2.0	1.8	2.5	1.5
Female	0.5	0.5	1.0	1.0	0.7	0.8	0.7
Total	0.8	0.5	1.3	1.5	1.2	1.6	1.1

Prevalence estimates are within ± 2.9% of the true population values (see section 2.6). See Appendix 3 for 95% Confidence interval estimates for different proportions for each age and gender group.

As with opiate use, in 2008, most secondary school students had never tried cocaine. Less than 3% of all students had ever used cocaine and the proportions across age groups ranged from 1% to 4%.

Around 1% of students had used cocaine in the month before the survey.

Regularity of use: Cocaine use was infrequent among the 2% of students who reported using in the past year. Around 43% of males and 61% of females who reported using cocaine in the previous year had used it only once or twice.

5.9.1 Changes in the prevalence of cocaine use between 2002 and 2008

The proportion of students reporting to have used cocaine in 2002, 2005 and 2008 are shown in Table 5.18.

Table 5.18: Percentage of students who had used cocaine in their life or in the past month in 2002, 2005 and 2008, Australia

	12–15-year olds			16–17-year olds			12–17-year olds		
Recency period	2002 (%)	2005 (%)	2008 (%)	2002 (%)	2005 (%)	2008 (%)	2002 (%)	2005 (%)	2008 (%)
Lifetime									
Male	3.6**	3.3**	2.1	4.1	4.1	4.6	3.7	3.5	2.8
Female	2.4	2.0	1.7	3.0	3.0	2.9	2.5	2.3	2.1
Total	3.0**	2.6**	1.9	3.6	3.5	3.7	3.1**	2.9	2.4
Month									
Male	1.8	2.1	1.2	1.4	1.8	2.1	1.7	2.0	1.5
Female	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.5	0.7	0.9	0.7	0.7
Total	1.4	1.4	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.1

** Significantly different from 2008 at $p < .01$

Among 12- to 15-year-olds, there was a significant decrease in the proportion of students reporting to have used cocaine in their lifetime between 2002 and 2008 and between 2005 and 2008. While the proportion of 12- to 15-year-old students reporting to use cocaine in the month before the survey in 2008 was slightly lower than the proportions found in 2002 and 2005, these differences were not statistically significant.

Among 16- and 17-year-olds, the proportion of students reporting to have used cocaine in their lifetime and in the past month in 2008 was not statistically different from the proportions found in 2002 or 2005.

5.10 Ecstasy

Table 5.19 gives the proportion of students reporting the use of ecstasy in all time periods by age and gender.

Table 5.19: Ecstasy: Percentage of students in each age and gender grouping using ecstasy in each recency period, Australia 2008

	Age						
	12 (%)	13 (%)	14 (%)	15 (%)	16 (%)	17 (%)	Total (%)
Never used							
Male	99.2	98.1	96.7	95.1	92.5	89.5	95.6
Female	99.1	98.4	96.9	95.9	93.7	92.4	96.3
Total	99.1	98.2	96.8	95.5	93.1	91.0	95.9
Ever used							
Male	0.8	1.9	3.3	4.9	7.5	10.5	4.4
Female	0.9	1.6	3.1	4.1	6.3	7.6	3.7
Total	0.9	1.8	3.2	4.5	6.9	9.0	4.1
Used in past year							
Male	0.8	1.6	2.6	4.5	6.5	9.2	3.8
Female	0.7	1.2	2.5	3.7	5.7	6.3	3.2
Total	0.8	1.4	2.6	4.1	6.1	7.7	3.5
Used in past month							
Male	0.3	0.9	2.0	2.8	3.2	5.6	2.3
Female	0.2	0.5	1.0	1.7	2.8	2.3	1.4
Total	0.3	0.7	1.5	2.3	3.0	3.9	1.8

Prevalence estimates are within ± 2.9% of the true population values (see section 2.6). See Appendix 3 for 95% Confidence interval estimates for different proportions for each age and gender group.

A small proportion of secondary school students had ever used ecstasy. Of all students, only 4% had ever used this drug. Similar to other substances, the proportion of students reporting to have ever used ecstasy increased with age: from 1% among 12-year-olds to 9% among 17-year-olds.

Use of ecstasy in the past month was consistently lower than use in the past year. Prevalence of use in the past month peaked at 4% among 17-year-olds.

There were few gender differences in ecstasy use. Use only differed between males and females at age 17, where males were more likely than females to report using ecstasy in their lifetime, in the past year and in the past month.

Regularity of use: Of the 4% of students who reported using ecstasy in the past year, 42% of males and 56% of females had used it only once or twice.

5.10.1 Changes in the prevalence of ecstasy use between 2002 and 2008

The proportions of students reporting to have used ecstasy in each survey year between 2002 and 2008 are shown in Table 5.20.

Table 5.20: Percentage of students who had used ecstasy in their lifetime or in the past month in 2002, 2005 and 2008, Australia

	12–15-year olds			16–17-year olds			12–17-year olds		
Recency period	2002 (%)	2005 (%)	2008 (%)	2002 (%)	2005 (%)	2008 (%)	2002 (%)	2005 (%)	2008 (%)
Lifetime									
Male	4.1**	3.6	2.7	7.0	6.5**	8.8	4.9	4.5	4.4
Female	3.0	2.5	2.4	6.6	5.5	6.9	4.1	3.3	3.7
Total	3.6**	3.1	2.6	6.8	6.0	7.8	4.5	3.9	4.1
Month									
Male	2.2	2.1	1.5	2.5**	3.0	4.3	2.3	2.3	2.3
Female	0.9	0.9	0.9	2.1	1.6	2.6	1.2	1.1	1.4
Total	1.5	1.5	1.2	2.3**	2.3**	3.4	1.8	1.7	1.8

** Significantly different from 2008 $p < .01$;

Among all 12- to 15-year-olds, there was a significant decrease in the proportion of students reporting to have used ecstasy in their lifetime between 2002 and 2008 ($p<.01$). However there was no significant change between 2005 and 2008.

Among 16- and 17-year-olds, the increase in proportion of students indicating they had used ecstasy in their lifetime between 2005 and 2008 was not statistically significant. The proportion of all 16- and 17-year-olds reporting to have used ecstasy in the month before the survey in 2008 was significantly higher than the proportion found in 2005 ($p<.01$) and 2002 ($p<.01$).

When data was combined for all 12- to 17-year-olds, there was no change in the proportion of students using ecstasy in their lifetime and in the past month between 2002 and 2008.

5.11 Use of any illicit substance

The proportions of students in each of the two age groups who had used cannabis, hallucinogens, amphetamines, cocaine, opiates or ecstasy in their lifetime and in the month prior to the survey in 2002, 2005 and 2008 are shown in Table 5.21.

Table 5.21: Percentage of students who had used any illicit substance or any illicit substance excluding cannabis, in their lifetime or in the past month in 2002, 2005 and 2008, Australia

		12- to 15-year olds			16- to 17-year olds			12- to 17-year olds		
Substance	Recency period	2002 (%)	2005 (%)	2008 (%)	2002 (%)	2005 (%)	2008 (%)	2002 (%)	2005 (%)	2008 (%)
Any illicit substance	Lifetime									
	Male	23.7**	16.8**	11.9	43.6**	34.6**	28.2	29.1**	21.5**	16.3
	Female	19.5**	13.2**	10.6	37.9**	30.7**	23.7	24.5**	18.1**	14.3
	Total	21.5**	15.1**	11.2	40.1**	32.6**	25.9	26.8**	19.8**	15.3
	Month									
	Male	11.6**	8.0**	5.7	21.0**	15.8	14.7	14.2**	10.0**	8.1
	Female	8.5**	5.4	4.7	16.1**	9.9	10.1	10.7**	6.6	6.3
	Total	10.1**	6.7**	5.2	18.5**	12.8	12.4	12.5**	8.3	7.2
Any illicit substance excluding cannabis	Lifetime									
	Male	9.8**	7.6**	5.8	14.9	12.8	12.5	11.2**	9.0**	7.6
	Female	7.8**	6.6**	5.0	14.1**	10.8	10.2	9.6**	7.7**	6.5
	Total	8.8**	7.1**	5.4	14.5**	11.8	11.3	10.5**	8.4**	7.1
	Month									
	Male	4.5**	4.2**	2.8	5.2	5.7	6.4	4.6	4.6	3.8
	Female	2.7	2.5	2.0	5.1	3.0	3.8	3.4**	2.6	2.5
	Total	3.6**	3.4**	2.4	5.1	4.3	5.1	4.0**	3.6	3.1

** Significantly different from 2008 at $p < .01$.

Among 12- to 15-year-olds, there was a significant decrease in the proportion of students using any illicit substance in their lifetime and in the past month between 2005 and 2008 and between 2002 and 2008.

Among 16- to 17-year-olds, the proportion of students who had used any illicit substance in their lifetime decreased significantly between 2002 and 2008 and between 2005 and 2008. The proportion of older students using any illicit substance in the

month before the survey decreased between 2002 and 2008, but did not change significantly between 2005 and 2008.

5.12 Use of any illicit substance excluding cannabis

Because the use of cannabis was more prevalent than any other substance, trends in its use tend to drive trends in the use of 'any illicit substance'. For this reason, the above analyses were repeated using an index of illicit substance use that excluded cannabis. The proportions of students who had used any illicit drug other than cannabis in their lifetime or in the prior month in 2002, 2005 and 2008 are also shown in Table 5.21.

The proportions of students using any illicit drug other than cannabis were lower than when the index of drug use included cannabis.

The proportion of 12- to 15-year-olds who had used any illicit substance other than cannabis in their lifetime decreased significantly between 2002 and 2008 and between 2005 and 2008 ($p<.01$). The proportion of 12- to 15-year-olds using an illicit substance other than cannabis in the past month in 2008 was significantly lower than the proportions found in 2005 and 2002.

Among 16- and 17-year-olds, the proportion using an illicit substance other than cannabis in their lifetime in 2008 was significantly lower than the proportion found in 2002, but not 2005. There was no change in the proportion of all 16- and 17-year-old students who had used illicit substances other than cannabis in the month before the survey between 2002 and 2008, or between 2005 and 2008.

5.13 Poly-substance use

In response to a specific question, students who had used 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 cannabis, amphetamines, hallucinogens and ecstasy in the past year indicating they had used any alcohol, tobacco, cannabis, hallucinogens amphetamines, ecstasy or analgesics on the same occasion is shown in Table 5.22.

Table 5.22: Percentage of students who had used cannabis, amphetamines, hallucinogens or ecstasy in the past 12 months indicating they had used other substances on the same occasion, Australia 2008

	Substance used in the past 12 months			
Substance used on same occasion	Cannabis (%)	Amphetamines (%)	Hallucinogens (%)	Ecstasy (%)
(n)^	(2995)	(787)	(610)	(831)
Alcohol	66.1	58.7	52.9	67.9
Tobacco	48.2	43.3	37.3	49.3
Cannabis	N/A^^	34.4	30.0	40.0
Hallucinogens	6.1	9.0	N/A^^	10.3
Amphetamines	6.4	N/A^^	8.7	13.6
Ecstasy	11.6	22.1	16.0	N/A^^
Analgesics	8.3	6.1	4.8	6.0
No other substance used)	22.4	22.1	28.9	16.0
Other	3.8	3.6	3.7	3.6

^ number of students surveyed using substance in previous year.
^^N/A = not applicable.

Alcohol, tobacco and cannabis were the substances most commonly used in conjunction with amphetamines, hallucinogens and ecstasy. Around 68% of the students who had used ecstasy in the previous year, 59% of those using amphetamines and 53% of those using hallucinogens were drinking alcohol at the same time.

Among cannabis users 66% drank alcohol and 48% smoked cigarettes on the same occasions as they used cannabis in the past year.

Around 22% of students who had used cannabis and amphetamines in the past year did not use any other substance at the same time, while around 16% of ecstasy users and 29% of students using hallucinogens did not use any other substance at the same time.

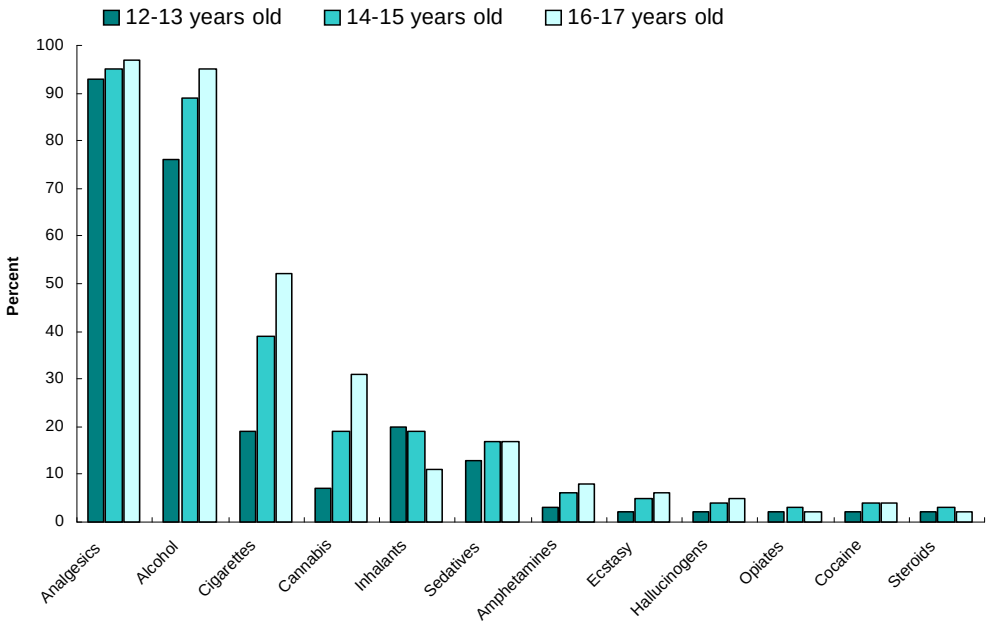
Around 22% of students who had used amphetamines in the past year reported using ecstasy at the same time, 16% of students using hallucinogens in the past year reported using ecstasy, while 14% of students using ecstasy reported using amphetamines at the same time.

6. Comparisons of the types of substances used by students in 2008

So far, this report has concentrated on the separate prevalence estimates for each substance. In this section the relative levels of use of the different substances are examined in order to highlight the substances most commonly used by secondary school students. Lifetime use and use in the month before the survey are focused upon. Lifetime use provides an indication of the extent students have had contact with the substance, and the extent the substance may have been used in the past, even though they may not be using the substance any more. Use in the past month gives an indication of the recency of use and suggests current access to, and involvement with, the substance.

Figure 6.1 shows the proportions of students in three age groups who had ever used each of the various substances in 2008. Students of all ages have most experience with the legal substances: analgesics, alcohol and tobacco. Analgesics were the most widely used substance, with over 90% of students in all three age groups having some experience of them. Experience with alcohol was also high among all age groups, with experience increasing as students move through secondary school. Tobacco was the next most commonly used substance. Experience with tobacco also increased as students progressed through secondary school.

Figure 6.1: Percentage of students who had ever used any licit or illicit substance, Australia 2008



For 16- and 17-year-olds, cannabis was the most widely used illicit substance and was the fourth most widely used substance among older adolescents.

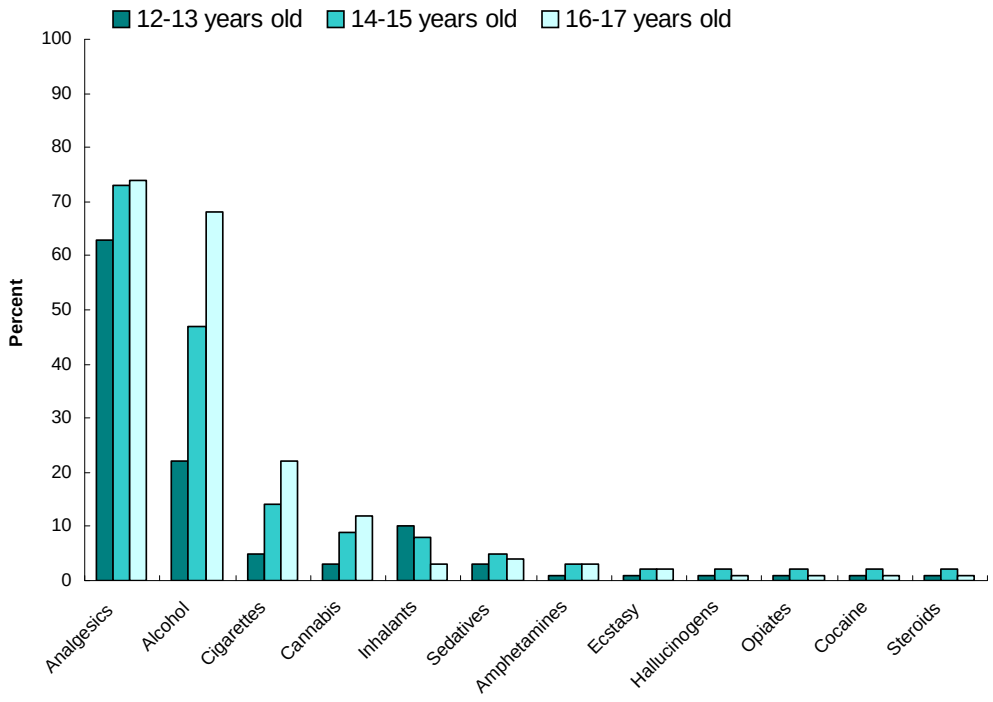
Inhalants were the most commonly used illicit substance among younger adolescents. Again, the unusual pattern where lifetime use of inhalants becomes less common with increasing age is shown in this graph.

Ecstasy, amphetamines and hallucinogens were the next most commonly used substances, and again their use increased with age. Experience with other illicit drugs was rare across all age groups.

The percentage of students in the three age groups ever using each of the substances in Figure 6.1 is shown in Appendix 4, Table 4A.1 for 2008. For interest, the corresponding percentages found in the 2005 survey are also shown in this table.

Figure 6.2 shows 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. The pattern of substance use seen in Figure 6.1 is also shown in Figure 6.2.

Figure 6.2: Percentage of students who had used any licit or illicit substance in the past month, Australia 2008



The licit substances were the most commonly used substances. Analgesics had been used by around two-thirds of all students in the past month. Alcohol was the next most commonly used substance, with more students in each age group having used alcohol in the month prior to the survey than any other substance, excluding analgesics. For students aged 14 and over, tobacco was the next most commonly used substance in the four weeks preceding the survey.

For students aged 16 and 17, cannabis was the most widely used illicit substance in the previous month.

Appendix 4, Table 4A.2, shows the percentage of students in the three age groups using each of the substances in the previous month for 2008. For interest, the corresponding percentages from the 2005 survey are also shown in this table.

7. Lessons about use of tobacco, alcohol and illicit substances in the previous school year

Students were asked to indicate if they could recall receiving any lessons on the use of tobacco, alcohol and illicit drugs in the previous school year (2007). The proportion of students receiving more than one lesson about tobacco, alcohol and illicit drug use in the previous school year is shown in Table 7.1.

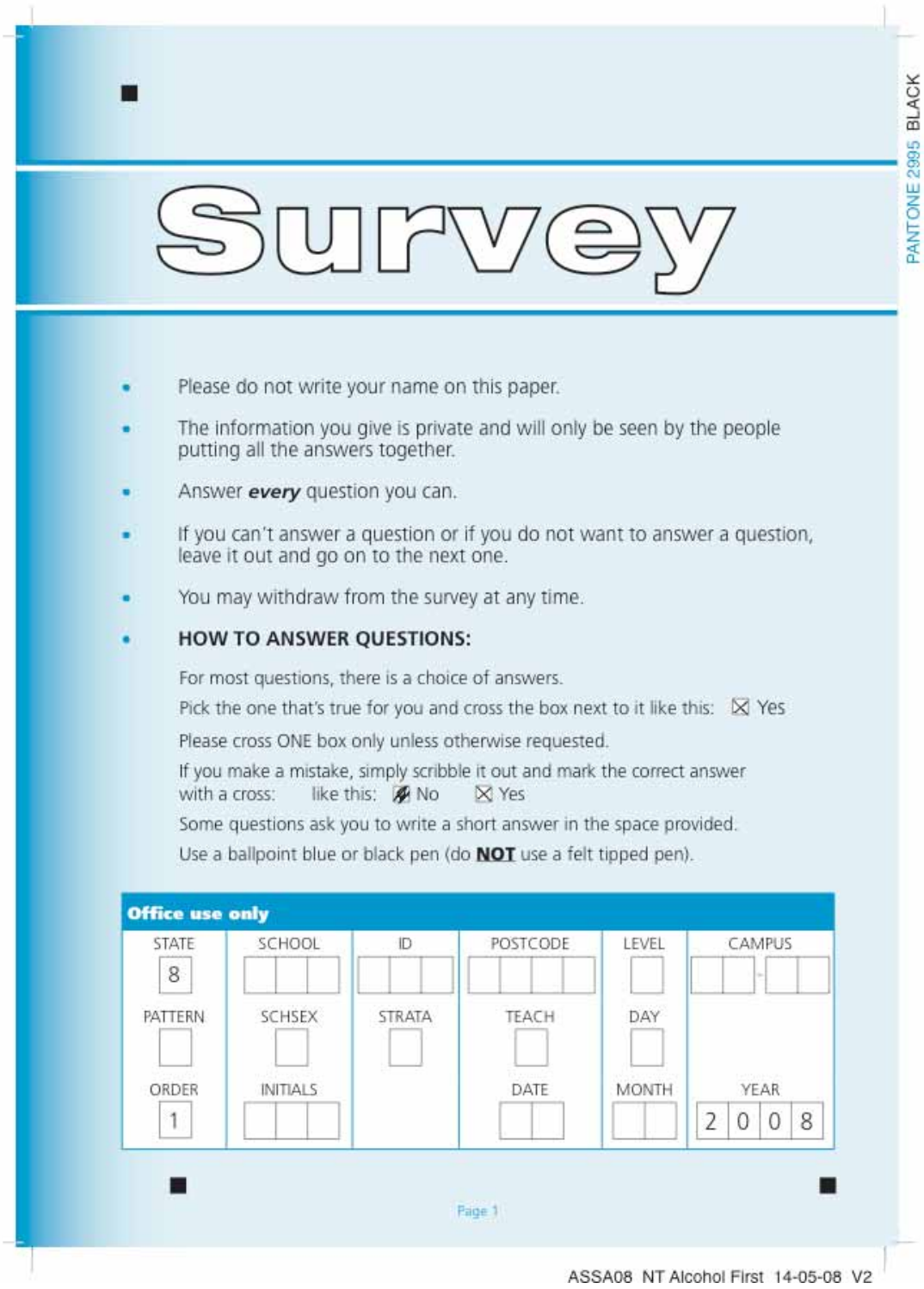
Table 7.1: Percentage of students indicating they had received more than one lesson about the use of illicit substances in the previous school year, Australia 2008

	Age						
	12 (%)	13 (%)	14 (%)	15 (%)	16 (%)	17 (%)	Total (%)
Tobacco							
More than one lesson	40.8	47.6	53.2	50.6	40.4	28.5	44.5
Alcohol							
More than one lesson	37.9	46.0	56.5	63.2	55.9	42.1	50.6
Illicit substances							
More than one lesson	27.3	36.5	49.6	60.4	53.7	39.2	44.5

Across all age groups, lessons about alcohol use were more common in 2007 than lessons about tobacco use or use of illicit substances. Younger students were slightly more likely to receive more than one lesson about tobacco use than alcohol use and illicit substance use. From the age of 15, students were more likely to receive more than one lesson about alcohol use than tobacco use. However from the age of 15, students were about equally likely to receive more than one lesson about alcohol use as they were to receive lessons about illicit substance use.

These findings indicate that schools participating in this survey were most likely to include lessons about the use of alcohol, tobacco and illicit substances in the curriculum of students in Years 8, 9 and 10.

Appendix 1: Questionnaire – Northern Territory



PANTONE 2995 BLACK

Survey

- Please do not write your name on this paper.
- The information you give is private and will only be seen by the people putting all the answers together.
- Answer ***every*** question you can.
- If you can't answer a question or if you do not want to answer a question, leave it out and go on to the next one.
- You may withdraw from the survey at any time.
- **HOW TO ANSWER QUESTIONS:**

For most questions, there is a choice of answers.

Pick the one that's true for you and cross the box next to it like this: ☒ Yes

Please cross ONE box only unless otherwise requested.

If you make a mistake, simply scribble it out and mark the correct answer with a cross: like this: ☒ No ☒ Yes

Some questions ask you to write a short answer in the space provided.

Use a ballpoint blue or black pen (do **NOT** use a felt tipped pen).

Office use only

STATE	SCHOOL	ID	POSTCODE	LEVEL	CAMPUS
8					
PATTERN	SCHSEX	STRATA	TEACH	DAY	
ORDER	INITIALS		DATE	MONTH	YEAR
1					2008

Page 1

ASSA08 NT Alcohol First 14-05-08 V2

1. (a) What suburb or town do you live in?

1. (b) What is the postcode of your address?

2. What year level are you in?

1 ☐ Year 7
2 ☐ Year 8
3 ☐ Year 9
4 ☐ Year 10
5 ☐ Year 11
6 ☐ Year 12

3. How old are you now?

10 ☐ 10
11 ☐ 11
12 ☐ 12
13 ☐ 13
14 ☐ 14
15 ☐ 15
16 ☐ 16
17 ☐ 17
18 ☐ 18
19 ☐ 19 and over

4. What sex are you?

1 ☐ Male
2 ☐ Female

5. What is your date of birth?

☐☐ Day ☐☐ Month 19☐☐ Year

6. During a normal week, how much money do you have available to spend on yourself (eg from pocket money, part-time job)?

1 ☐ None
2 ☐ $10 or less
3 ☐ $11 – $20
4 ☐ $21 – $40
5 ☐ $41 – $60
6 ☐ $61 – $80
7 ☐ Over $80

7. At school work, do you consider yourself:

1 ☐ A lot above average?
2 ☐ Above average?
3 ☐ Average?
4 ☐ Below average?
5 ☐ A lot below average?

8. Were you at school on the last school day?

1 ☐ Yes 2 ☐ No

9. Are you of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent?

1 ☐ No
2 ☐ Yes – Aboriginal descent
3 ☐ Yes – Torres Strait Islander descent
4 ☐ Yes – both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander descent

10. What is the main language spoken at home? *Cross only **one** box.*

1 ☐ English
2 ☐ Another language only *(please specify which language)*

3 ☐ English and another language *(please specify the other language)*

THE NEXT FEW QUESTIONS ARE ABOUT DRINKING ALCOHOL — BEER, WINE, WINE COOLERS, ALCOHOLIC SODAS, SPIRITS, PREMIXED SPIRIT DRINKS, LIQUEURS, ALCOHOLIC APPLE CIDER, SHERRY OR PORT.

11. At the present time, do you consider yourself:

1 ☐ A non-drinker?
2 ☐ An occasional drinker?
3 ☐ A light drinker?
4 ☐ A party drinker?
5 ☐ A heavy drinker?

12. Have you **ever** had even part of an alcoholic drink?

1 ☐ No
2 ☐ Yes, just a few sips
3 ☐ Yes, I have had fewer than 10 alcoholic drinks in my life
4 ☐ Yes, I have had more than 10 alcoholic drinks in my life

13. Have you had an alcoholic drink in the last **twelve months?**

1 ☐ Yes 2 ☐ No

14. Have you had an alcoholic drink in the last **four weeks?**

1 ☐ Yes 2 ☐ No

15. This question is about the number of alcoholic drinks you had during the last **seven days,** including yesterday.

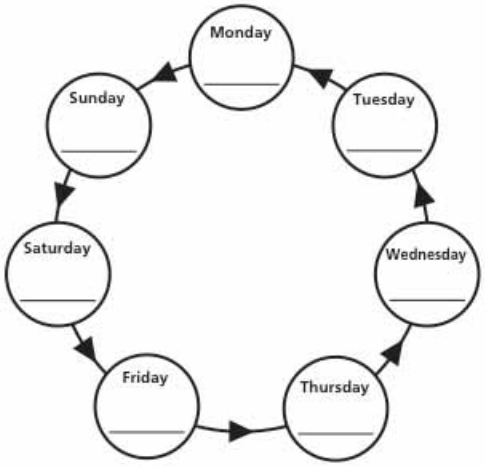
Put a cross near **yesterday.** Then in the space provided, write the number of alcoholic drinks you had yesterday. If you didn't have any alcoholic drinks, put in '0'.

Start filling in the spaces beginning with yesterday, and follow the arrows.

Answer for every day of the week.

Write the number of alcoholic drinks you had each day in the circle.

Put '0' for each day you didn't drink any alcoholic drinks.



QUESTIONS 16, 17 AND 18 ARE FOR ANYONE WHO HAS HAD AN ALCOHOLIC DRINK. IF YOU HAVE NEVER HAD AN ALCOHOLIC DRINK, GO TO QUESTION 19.

16. What alcoholic drink do you usually have?

Cross the box near the drink you **usually** have. If that drink is not listed here, cross the box next to 'Other' and write the name of the drink in the space provided.

01 ☐ Ordinary beer
02 ☐ Low alcohol beer
03 ☐ Wine
04 ☐ Wine Cooler (eg West Coast Coolers)
05 ☐ Champagne or sparkling wine (eg Spumante, Passion Pop)
06 ☐ Alcoholic Apple Cider (eg Strongbow)
07 ☐ Alcoholic sodas (eg Two Dogs)
08 ☐ Premixed spirits (eg Bacardi Breezer, Lemon Ruski, Vodka Mudshake, UDL Drinks, Sub Zero)
09 ☐ Spirits (eg rum, brandy, whisky, gin, vodka)
10 ☐ Liqueurs (eg Tia Maria, Kahlua, Midori, Glide, Archers, Illusion etc)
11 ☐ Other *(please specify)*

You should have crossed only **one** box.

17. (a) Where, or from whom, **did you get** your **last** alcoholic drink?
Fill in the space beside 'Other' if you can't find your answer.
Cross only **one** box.

I didn't buy it.....

1 ☐ My parent(s) gave it to me
2 ☐ My brother or sister gave it to me
3 ☐ I took it from home without my parent(s) permission
4 ☐ Friends gave it to me
5 ☐ I got someone to buy it for me
→ *Go to QUESTION 17(b)*
6 ☐ Other *(please specify)*

OR

I bought it.....

51 ☐ At a hotel, pub, bar, tavern, RSL Club
52 ☐ At a licensed liquor store or supermarket
53 ☐ At a walk-in bottle-shop at a pub or hotel
54 ☐ At a drive-in bottle-shop
55 ☐ At a restaurant
56 ☐ At a dance venue / dance party
57 ☐ At a nightclub
58 ☐ At a sporting event
59 ☐ At a sports club (eg Leagues, surfing, football)
60 ☐ Through the Internet
61 ☐ By phone, fax, mail order
62 ☐ Other *(please specify)*

You should have crossed only **one** box.

17. (b) If **someone else bought alcohol for you,** who was this person?

1 ☐ Friend who is 18 or over
2 ☐ Brother / sister or other relative who is 18 or over
3 ☐ Friend who is not yet aged 18
4 ☐ Brother / sister or other relative who is not yet 18
5 ☐ Stranger who was able to buy alcohol
6 ☐ Other *(please specify)*

18. (a) **Where** did you drink your **last** alcoholic drink?
Fill in the space beside 'Other' if you can't find your answer.
Cross only **one** box.

I drank it.....

01 ☐ At a beach, park or recreation area
02 ☐ At a hotel, pub, bar, tavern or RSL club
03 ☐ At a dance venue / dance party
04 ☐ At a nightclub
05 ☐ At a party
06 ☐ At a restaurant
07 ☐ At a sporting event
08 ☐ At a sports club (eg Leagues, surfing, football)
09 ☐ On school grounds during school hours
10 ☐ On school grounds after hours
11 ☐ At my home
12 ☐ At my friend's home
13 ☐ In a car
14 ☐ Other *(please specify)*

You should have crossed only one box.

18. (b) Was an adult supervising you and/or your friends when you had this drink?

1 ☐ Yes 2 ☐ No

THE NEXT QUESTIONS ARE FOR EVERYONE AND ARE ABOUT SMOKING CIGARETTES.

19. At the present time, do you consider yourself:

1 ☐ A heavy smoker?
2 ☐ A light smoker?
3 ☐ An occasional smoker?
4 ☐ An ex-smoker?
5 ☐ A non-smoker?

20. Have you **ever** smoked even part of a cigarette?

1 ☐ No
2 ☐ Yes, just a few puffs
3 ☐ Yes, I have smoked fewer than 10 cigarettes in my life
4 ☐ Yes, I have smoked more than 10 but fewer than 100 cigarettes in my life
5 ☐ Yes, I have smoked more than 100 cigarettes in my life

21. Have you smoked cigarettes in the last **twelve months?**

1 ☐ Yes 2 ☐ No

22. Have you smoked cigarettes in the last **four weeks?**

1 ☐ Yes 2 ☐ No

23. This question is about the number of cigarettes you had during the last **seven days,** including yesterday.

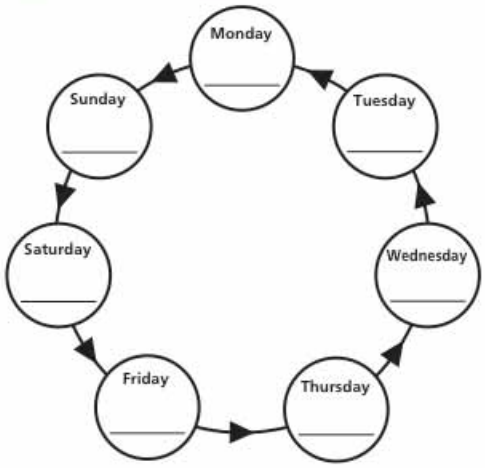
Put a cross near **yesterday.** Then in the space provided, write the number of cigarettes you had yesterday. If you didn't smoke any cigarettes, put in '0'.

Start filling in the spaces beginning with yesterday, and follow the arrows.

Answer for every day of the week.

Write the number of cigarettes you smoked each day in the circle.

Put '0' for each day you didn't smoke any cigarettes.



24. Do you think you will be smoking cigarettes this time next year?

1 ☐ Certain **not** to be smoking
2 ☐ Very **un**likely to be smoking
3 ☐ **Un**likely to be smoking
4 ☐ Can't decide how likely
5 ☐ Likely to be smoking
6 ☐ Very likely to be smoking
7 ☐ Certain to be smoking

25. At most shops in the area where you live and go to school, how easy or difficult would it be:
(Cross only **one** box for **each** question)

		Very easy	Easy	Neither easy nor difficult	Difficult	Very difficult
(i)	for you to buy cigarettes?	1 ☐	2 ☐	3 ☐	4 ☐	5 ☐
(ii)	for you to get someone else to buy cigarettes for you?	1 ☐	2 ☐	3 ☐	4 ☐	5 ☐

QUESTIONS 26, 27 AND 28 ARE ONLY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE SMOKED A CIGARETTE IN THE PAST WEEK.

IF YOU HAVE NOT SMOKED A CIGARETTE IN THE PAST WEEK, GO TO QUESTION 29.

26. (a) What brand of cigarettes do you usually smoke?

Cross the box near the brand you **usually** smoke. If that brand is not listed here, cross the box next to 'Other' and write the name of the brand in the space provided.

01 ☐ Alpine
02 ☐ Benson & Hedges
03 ☐ Dunhill
04 ☐ Escort
05 ☐ Fortune
06 ☐ Holiday
07 ☐ Horizon
08 ☐ Longbeach
09 ☐ Marlboro
10 ☐ Peter Jackson
11 ☐ Sterling
12 ☐ Stradbroke
13 ☐ Vogue
14 ☐ Wills Super Mild
15 ☐ Winfield
16 ☐ Freedom
17 ☐ Other *(please specify)*

You should have crossed only one box.

26. **(b)** Do the cigarettes you usually smoke come from packets of ...?

1 ☐ 20's
2 ☐ 25's
3 ☐ 30's
4 ☐ 35's
5 ☐ 40's
6 ☐ 50's

Remember: you should have crossed only one box.

27. **(a)** Where, or from whom, **did you get** the **last** cigarette that you smoked?
Fill in the space beside 'Other' if you can't find your answer.
Cross only **one** box.

I didn't buy it..... **OR** **I bought it.....**

1 ☐ My parent(s) gave it to me
2 ☐ My brother or sister gave it to me
3 ☐ I took it from home without my parent(s) permission
4 ☐ Friends gave it to me
5 ☐ I got someone to buy it for me
→ *Go to QUESTION 27(b)*
6 ☐ Other *(please specify)*

51 ☐ At a hotel, pub, bar, tavern, RSL Club
52 ☐ At a supermarket
53 ☐ At a newsagency
54 ☐ At a milk bar or delicatessen
55 ☐ At a convenience store (eg Food Plus, 7/11)
56 ☐ At a tobacconist / tobacco shop
57 ☐ At a take-away food shop
58 ☐ At a petrol station
59 ☐ Through the Internet
68 ☐ Other *(please specify)*

You should have crossed only one box.

27. **(b)** If **someone else bought cigarettes** for you, who was this person?

1 ☐ Friend who is 18 or over
2 ☐ Brother / sister or other relative who is 18 or over
3 ☐ Friend who is not yet aged 18
4 ☐ Brother / sister or other relative who is not yet 18
5 ☐ Stranger who was able to buy cigarettes
6 ☐ Other *(please specify)*

28. Sometimes people break open a packet of cigarettes and sell single cigarettes.
In the last **four weeks,** have you **bought** cigarettes that were **not in a full packet** (for example, buying one or more cigarette(s) at a time)?

1 ☐ Yes
2 ☐ No

THE NEXT QUESTIONS ARE FOR EVERYONE AND ARE ABOUT OTHER THINGS YOU MIGHT USE.

For each substance, cross the box which shows how many times you have used the substance during the specified time period. There should only be one cross for each line of boxes.

29. (a) How many times, if ever, have you used or taken painkillers/analgesics such as Disprin, Panadol or Aspro, **for any reason:**

	None	Once or twice	3–5 times	6–9 times	10–19 times	20–39 times	40 or more times
(i) In the **last week?**	1 ☐	2 ☐	3 ☐	4 ☐	5 ☐	6 ☐	7 ☐
(ii) In the **last four weeks?**	1 ☐	2 ☐	3 ☐	4 ☐	5 ☐	6 ☐	7 ☐
(iii) In the **last year?**	1 ☐	2 ☐	3 ☐	4 ☐	5 ☐	6 ☐	7 ☐
(iv) In your **lifetime?**	1 ☐	2 ☐	3 ☐	4 ☐	5 ☐	6 ☐	7 ☐

If you have NEVER used or taken painkillers / analgesics, go to QUESTION 30

29. (b) Last time you used a painkiller/analgesic, did you use it because you...?
Cross only **one** box.

1 ☐ Had a headache or migraine
2 ☐ Had a cold or 'flu
3 ☐ Had a toothache or pains associated with dental procedure
4 ☐ Had pains associated with playing sport (eg, injury, strain)
5 ☐ Had other types of pain *(please specify)*

6 ☐ Wanted to – there was no medical reason for using it
7 ☐ Other *(please specify)*

29. (c) Where, or from whom, **did you get** your **last** painkiller / analgesic?

1 ☐ My parent(s) gave it to me
2 ☐ My brother or sister gave it to me
3 ☐ I took it from home without my parent(s) permission
4 ☐ Friends gave it to me
5 ☐ A member of staff at my school gave it to me
6 ☐ A member of staff at my sporting club gave it to me
7 ☐ I bought it
8 ☐ Other *(please specify)*

30. How many times, if ever, have you used or taken sleeping tablets, tranquillisers or sedatives, such as Valium, Serepax or Rohypnol (rohies, barbs) **other than for medical reasons:**

	None	Once or twice	3–5 times	6–9 times	10–19 times	20–39 times	40 or more times
(i) In the **last week?**	1 ☐	2 ☐	3 ☐	4 ☐	5 ☐	6 ☐	7 ☐
(ii) In the **last four weeks?**	1 ☐	2 ☐	3 ☐	4 ☐	5 ☐	6 ☐	7 ☐
(iii) In the **last year?**	1 ☐	2 ☐	3 ☐	4 ☐	5 ☐	6 ☐	7 ☐
(iv) In your **lifetime?**	1 ☐	2 ☐	3 ☐	4 ☐	5 ☐	6 ☐	7 ☐

31. (a) How many times, if ever, have you smoked or used marijuana / cannabis (grass, hash, dope, weed, mull, yarndi, ganga, pot, a bong, a joint):

	None	Once or twice	3–5 times	6–9 times	10–19 times	20–39 times	40 or more times
(i) In the **last week?**	1 ☐	2 ☐	3 ☐	4 ☐	5 ☐	6 ☐	7 ☐
(ii) In the **last four weeks?**	1 ☐	2 ☐	3 ☐	4 ☐	5 ☐	6 ☐	7 ☐
(iii) In the **last year?**	1 ☐	2 ☐	3 ☐	4 ☐	5 ☐	6 ☐	7 ☐
(iv) In your **lifetime?**	1 ☐	2 ☐	3 ☐	4 ☐	5 ☐	6 ☐	7 ☐

If you have **NOT** used marijuana/cannabis in the last year, **go to QUESTION 32**

31. (b) In the **last year,** did you use any other substance or substances **on the same occasion that you used** marijuana / cannabis?

Cross **all** that apply.

1 ☐ Tobacco
2 ☐ Alcohol
3 ☐ Painkillers / analgesics
4 ☐ Sedatives / tranquillisers / sleeping tablets
5 ☐ Hallucinogens (LSD, acid, trips, magic mushrooms)
6 ☐ Amphetamines (speed, uppers, goey, crystal methamphetamine, base, dex, dexies, dexamphetamines, ox blood, methamphetamine, ice)
7 ☐ Ecstasy (XTC, E, MDMA, ecci, X, bickies)
8 ☐ Other *(what substance?)*
9 ☐ I did not use any other substance on the same occasion

You should have crossed **all** that apply

31. (c) When you use marijuana / cannabis do you usually:

Cross only **one** box.

1 ☐ Smoke it as a joint (reefer, spliff)?
2 ☐ Smoke it from a bong or a pipe?
3 ☐ Eat it (eg in hash cookies)?
4 ☐ Other *(please specify)*

You should have crossed only **one** box

31. (d) Do you usually use marijuana / cannabis by yourself or with others?

1 ☐ By myself
2 ☐ With others
3 ☐ By myself and with others about equally often

31. (e) Where did you last use marijuana / cannabis?

Fill in the space beside **'Other'** if you can't find your answer.

I used it.....

01 ☐ At a hotel, pub, bar, tavern or RSL club
02 ☐ At a dance venue / dance party
03 ☐ At a nightclub
04 ☐ At a party
05 ☐ At my home
06 ☐ At my friend's home
07 ☐ At a sports club (eg Leagues, surfing, football)
08 ☐ At the beach
09 ☐ In a park
10 ☐ In a car
11 ☐ On school grounds during school hours
12 ☐ On school grounds after hours
13 ☐ Other *(please specify)*

You should have crossed only **one** box

32. How many times, if ever, have you used or taken steroids (muscle, roids, or gear) **without a doctor's prescription** in an attempt to make you better at sport, to increase muscle size or to improve your general appearance:

	None	Once or twice	3–5 times	6–9 times	10–19 times	20–39 times	40 or more times
(i) In the **last week?**	1 ☐	2 ☐	3 ☐	4 ☐	5 ☐	6 ☐	7 ☐
(ii) In the **last four weeks?**	1 ☐	2 ☐	3 ☐	4 ☐	5 ☐	6 ☐	7 ☐
(iii) In the **last year?**	1 ☐	2 ☐	3 ☐	4 ☐	5 ☐	6 ☐	7 ☐
(iv) In your **lifetime?**	1 ☐	2 ☐	3 ☐	4 ☐	5 ☐	6 ☐	7 ☐

33. How many times, if ever, have you deliberately sniffed (inhaled) from spray cans or deliberately sniffed things like glue, paint, petrol or thinners in order to get high or for the way it makes you feel:

This does not include sniffing white-out, liquid paper, textas, markers or pens.

	None	Once or twice	3–5 times	6–9 times	10–19 times	20–39 times	40 or more times
(i) In the **last week?**	1 ☐	2 ☐	3 ☐	4 ☐	5 ☐	6 ☐	7 ☐
(ii) In the **last four weeks?**	1 ☐	2 ☐	3 ☐	4 ☐	5 ☐	6 ☐	7 ☐
(iii) In the **last year?**	1 ☐	2 ☐	3 ☐	4 ☐	5 ☐	6 ☐	7 ☐
(iv) In your **lifetime?**	1 ☐	2 ☐	3 ☐	4 ☐	5 ☐	6 ☐	7 ☐

34. (a) How many times, if ever, have you used or taken amphetamines (speed, uppers, goey, crystal methamphetamine, base, dex, dexies, dexamphetamines, ox blood, methamphetamine, ice) **other than for medical reasons:**

	None	Once or twice	3–5 times	6–9 times	10–19 times	20–39 times	40 or more times
(i) In the **last week?**	1 ☐	2 ☐	3 ☐	4 ☐	5 ☐	6 ☐	7 ☐
(ii) In the **last four weeks?**	1 ☐	2 ☐	3 ☐	4 ☐	5 ☐	6 ☐	7 ☐
(iii) In the **last year?**	1 ☐	2 ☐	3 ☐	4 ☐	5 ☐	6 ☐	7 ☐
(iv) In your **lifetime?**	1 ☐	2 ☐	3 ☐	4 ☐	5 ☐	6 ☐	7 ☐

If you have NOT used amphetamines in the last year, go to QUESTION 35 (a)

34. (b) In the **last year,** did you use any other substance or substances **on the same occasion that you used** amphetamines (speed, uppers, goey, crystal methamphetamine, base, dex, dexies, dexamphetamines, ox blood, methamphetamine, ice)?

Cross **all** that apply.

1 ☐ Tobacco
2 ☐ Alcohol
3 ☐ Painkillers / analgesics
4 ☐ Sedatives / tranquillisers / sleeping tablets
5 ☐ Hallucinogens (LSD, acid, trips, magic mushrooms)
6 ☐ Marijuana / cannabis
7 ☐ Ecstasy (XTC, E, MDMA, ecci, X, bickies)
8 ☐ Other *(what substance?)*
9 ☐ I did not use any other substance on the same occasion

You should have crossed all that apply

35. (a) How many times, if ever, have you used or taken ecstasy or XTC (E, MDMA, ecci, X, bickies):

	None	Once or twice	3–5 times	6–9 times	10–19 times	20–39 times	40 or more times
(i) In the **last week?**	1 ☐	2 ☐	3 ☐	4 ☐	5 ☐	6 ☐	7 ☐
(ii) In the **last four weeks?**	1 ☐	2 ☐	3 ☐	4 ☐	5 ☐	6 ☐	7 ☐
(iii) In the **last year?**	1 ☐	2 ☐	3 ☐	4 ☐	5 ☐	6 ☐	7 ☐
(iv) In your **lifetime?**	1 ☐	2 ☐	3 ☐	4 ☐	5 ☐	6 ☐	7 ☐

If you have NOT used ecstasy in the last year, go to QUESTION 36

35. (b) In the **last year,** did you use any other substance or substances **on the same occasion that you used** ecstasy (XTC, E, MDMA, ecci, X, bickies)?

Cross **all** that apply.

1 ☐ Tobacco
2 ☐ Alcohol
3 ☐ Painkillers / analgesics
4 ☐ Sedatives / tranquillisers / sleeping tablets
5 ☐ Hallucinogens (LSD, acid, trips, magic mushrooms)
6 ☐ Amphetamines (speed, uppers, goey, crystal methamphetamine, base, dex, dexies, dexamphetamines, ox blood, methamphetamine, ice)
7 ☐ Marijuana / cannabis
8 ☐ Other *(what substance?)*
9 ☐ I did not use any other substance on the same occasion

You should have crossed all that apply

36. How many times, if ever, have you used or taken cocaine:

	None	Once or twice	3–5 times	6–9 times	10–19 times	20–39 times	40 or more times
(i) In the **last week?**	1 ☐	2 ☐	3 ☐	4 ☐	5 ☐	6 ☐	7 ☐
(ii) In the **last four weeks?**	1 ☐	2 ☐	3 ☐	4 ☐	5 ☐	6 ☐	7 ☐
(iii) In the **last year?**	1 ☐	2 ☐	3 ☐	4 ☐	5 ☐	6 ☐	7 ☐
(iv) In your **lifetime?**	1 ☐	2 ☐	3 ☐	4 ☐	5 ☐	6 ☐	7 ☐

37. How many times, if ever, have you used or taken heroin (smack, horse, skag, hammer, H), or other opiates (narcotics) such as methadone, morphine or pethidine **other than for medical reasons:**

	None	Once or twice	3–5 times	6–9 times	10–19 times	20–39 times	40 or more times
(i) In the **last week?**	1 ☐	2 ☐	3 ☐	4 ☐	5 ☐	6 ☐	7 ☐
(ii) In the **last four weeks?**	1 ☐	2 ☐	3 ☐	4 ☐	5 ☐	6 ☐	7 ☐
(iii) In the **last year?**	1 ☐	2 ☐	3 ☐	4 ☐	5 ☐	6 ☐	7 ☐
(iv) In your **lifetime?**	1 ☐	2 ☐	3 ☐	4 ☐	5 ☐	6 ☐	7 ☐

38. (a) How many times, if ever, have you used or taken hallucinogens (LSD, acid, trips, magic mushrooms, datura, angel's trumpet):

	None	Once or twice	3–5 times	6–9 times	10–19 times	20–39 times	40 or more times
(i) In the **last week?**	1 ☐	2 ☐	3 ☐	4 ☐	5 ☐	6 ☐	7 ☐
(ii) In the **last four weeks?**	1 ☐	2 ☐	3 ☐	4 ☐	5 ☐	6 ☐	7 ☐
(iii) In the **last year?**	1 ☐	2 ☐	3 ☐	4 ☐	5 ☐	6 ☐	7 ☐
(iv) In your **lifetime?**	1 ☐	2 ☐	3 ☐	4 ☐	5 ☐	6 ☐	7 ☐

If you have NOT used hallucinogens in the last year, go to QUESTION 39

38. (b) In the **last year,** did you use any other substance or substances **on the same occasion that you used** hallucinogens (LSD, acid, trips, magic mushrooms, datura, angel's trumpet)?
Cross **all** that apply.

1 ☐ Tobacco
2 ☐ Alcohol
3 ☐ Painkillers / analgesics
4 ☐ Sedatives / tranquillisers / sleeping tablets
5 ☐ Marijuana / cannabis
6 ☐ Amphetamines (speed, uppers, goey, crystal methamphetamine, base, dex, dexies, dexamphetamines, ox blood, methamphetamine, ice)
7 ☐ Ecstasy (XTC, E, MDMA, ecci, X, bickies)
8 ☐ Other *(what substance?)*
9 ☐ I did not use any other substance on the same occasion

You should have crossed all that apply

THESE QUESTIONS ARE FOR EVERYONE.

39. **During 2007** (last year), did you have any lessons or parts of lessons at school that were about **smoking cigarettes?**

1 ☐ No, not even part of a lesson
2 ☐ Yes, part of a lesson
3 ☐ Yes, one lesson
4 ☐ Yes, more than one lesson

40. **During 2007** (last year), did you have any lessons or parts of lessons at school that were about **drinking alcohol?**

1 ☐ No, not even part of a lesson
2 ☐ Yes, part of a lesson
3 ☐ Yes, one lesson
4 ☐ Yes, more than one lesson

41. **During 2007** (last year), did you have any lessons or parts of lessons at school that were about **illicit drugs** such as cannabis/marijuana, ecstasy, heroin, amphetamines, crystal methamphetamine, hallucinogens, cocaine?

1 ☐ No, not even part of a lesson
2 ☐ Yes, part of a lesson
3 ☐ Yes, one lesson
4 ☐ Yes, more than one lesson

Remember: last year was 2007

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, year, month and 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 most recent response, responses were coded to indicate use in that 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 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 if the student had used the substance or not. 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 2-3% of data recoded.

Data Analyses Details

Logistic regression analyses were used to examine whether the proportion of students in 2008 who had used tobacco, alcohol and each of the illicit substance within different time periods (eg, lifetime, month, week) was different from the proportions found in 2005 and 2002. For these analyses students were grouped into the age groups: 12- to 15-year-olds, 16- to 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 and, where appropriate, gender 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: 95% Confidence intervals

95% Confidence intervals associated with different estimates for gender and age sample sizes achieved in the 2008 ASSAD study.

Table 3A.1: 95% Confidence intervals for sample sizes achieved in ASSAD 2008 for male and females in each age group for proportions: 90%/10%; 80%/20%; 70%/30%; 60%/40%; 50%/50%.

Male

Age	N	90% / 10%	80% / 20%	70% / 30%	60% / 40%	50% / 50%
12	1141	±1.7	±2.3	±2.7	±2.8	±2.9
13	2153	±1.3	±1.7	±1.9	±2.1	±2.1
14	2216	±1.2	±1.7	±1.9	±2.0	±2.1
15	2241	±1.2	±1.7	±1.9	±2.0	±2.1
16	2318	±1.2	±1.6	±1.9	±2.0	±2.0
17	1422	±1.6	±2.1	±2.4	±2.5	±2.6
12-17	11491	±0.5	±0.7	±0.8	±0.9	±0.9

Female

Age	N	90% / 10%	80% / 20%	70% / 30%	60% / 40%	50% / 50%
12	1352	±1.6	±2.1	±2.4	±2.6	±2.7
13	2394	±1.2	±1.6	±1.8	±2.0	±2.0
14	2408	±1.2	±1.6	±1.8	±2.0	±2.0
15	2321	±1.2	±1.6	±1.9	±2.0	±2.0
16	2647	±1.1	±1.5	±1.7	±1.9	±1.9
17	1795	±1.4	±1.9	±2.1	±2.3	±2.3
12-17	12917	±0.5	±0.7	±0.8	±0.8	±0.9

Appendix 4: Substances used by secondary students in 2005 and 2008

Table 4A.1: Percentage of students surveyed indicating they had ever used each of the different substances asked about in the survey in 2008 and 2005 in three age groups (12–13-year-olds; 14–15-year-olds and 16–17-year-olds)

	2008			2005		
Ever used in lifetime	12–13 (%)	14–15 (%)	16–17 (%)	12–13 (%)	14–15 (%)	16–17 (%)
Analgesics	94	95	96	93	95	97
Alcohol	73	87	93	76	89	95
Tobacco	14	30	45	19	39	52
Cannabis	4	13	22	7	19	31
Inhalants	22	20	15	20	19	11
Tranquillisers	11	17	18	13	17	17
Amphetamines	1	3	5	3	6	8
Hallucinogens	1	3	5	2	4	5
Ecstasy	2	3	7	2	5	6
Opiates	1	1	2	2	3	2
Cocaine	1	2	3	2	4	4
Steroids	2	3	2	2	3	2

Table 4A.2: Percentage of students surveyed indicating that in the past month they had used each of the different substances asked about in the survey in 2008 and 2005 in three age groups (12–13-year-olds; 14–15-year-olds and 16–17-year-olds)

	2008			2005		
Used in past month	12–13 (%)	14–15 (%)	16–17 (%)	12–13 (%)	14–15 (%)	16–17 (%)
Analgesics	62	71	73	63	73	74
Alcohol	15	41	64	22	47	68
Tobacco	4	13	19	5	14	22
Cannabis	1	6	11	3	9	12
Inhalants	10	9	5	10	8	3
Tranquillisers	2	4	4	3	5	4
Amphetamines	0	2	2	1	3	3
Hallucinogens	0	1	2	1	2	1
Ecstasy	0	2	3	1	2	2
Opiates	0	1	1	1	2	1
Cocaine	0	1	1	1	2	1
Steroids	1	2	1	1	2	1