

Comparative Cannabis Arrests: Australia & Selected Jurisdictions, 2004

by Greg Swensen (September 2009)

Estimated rates and number of cannabis arrests for Australia and selected jurisdictions, 2004

	Cannabis offences (arrests + infringements)		All drug offences	Estimated resident population	Rate/100,000	
	n	%			Cannabis	All drugs
Queensland	23,355	72.5	32,226	3,888,077	600.7	828.8
Western Australia	8,955	69.5	12,880	1,978,079	452.7	651.1
Northern Territory	863	87.7	984	199,834	431.9	492.4
South Australia	6,296	92.6	6,800	1,532,727	410.8	443.7
New Zealand	14,654	80.2	18,280	4,100,600	357.4	445.8
Tasmania	1,353	88.1	1,535	482,236	280.6	318.3
Australia	54,936	71.0	77,333	20,091,504	273.4	384.9
United States of America					260	
Victoria	7,221	58.5	12,347	4,962,970	145.5	248.8
United Kingdom	85,438	60.0	142,338	59,834,300	142.8	237.9
New South Wales	6,583	65.2	10,101	6,720,791	97.9	150.3
Australian Capital Territory	310	67.4	460	324,119	95.6	141.9

Source

Crime data:

Australia: *Illicit drug data report 2004-05*. Canberra, Australian Crime Commission, 2006 (Tables 17 & 18)

USA: NORML New Zealand. *Research: Recorded cannabis offences down 19%: NZ still number one pot arresting country*, 8 June 2007 <www.norml.org.nz/article567.html>

New Zealand: Office of Police Commissioner. *New Zealand crime statistics 2004/2005: A summary of recorded and resolved offence statistics*. Wellington, Office of the Police Commissioner, August 2005.

UK: Nicholas S, Povey D, Walker A & Kershaw C. *Crime in England and Wales 2004/2005*. Home Office Statistical Bulletin 11/05. London, Research, Development & Statistics Directorate, Home Office, 2005 (Table 2.04).

Population data:

Australia: Australian Bureau of Statistics. *Australian historical population statistics*. Cat. No. 3105.0.65.001;

UK: from National Statistics

New Zealand: Office of Police Commissioner. *New Zealand crime statistics 2004/2005: A summary of recorded and resolved offence statistics*. Wellington, Office of the Police Commissioner, August 2005.

Note

Australian data refers to 2004/2005, other jurisdictions refer to 2004.