

# Arrests for Drug Offences

## Western Australia & Australia:1995/1996 - 2018/2019

### Highlights

This publication provides annual time series data concerning three drug groups - heroin and other opioids, amphetamine type stimulants and cannabis in relation to Western Australia (WA) and Australia.

In WA over the 24 year period 1995/1996 > 2018/2019 annual arrests for cannabis offences -

- decreased by 24.9%, from 13,903 to 10,445
- the proportion of all arrests decreased, from 92.9% to 46.8%
- the proportion of 'consumer' offences of all cannabis arrests increased, from 63.8% to 91.3%

In WA over the 24 year period 1995/1996 > 2018/2019 annual arrests for heroin and other opioid offences -

- increased by 15.9%, from 246 to 285
- the proportion of all arrests remained relatively constant of about 1 - 2%
- the proportion of 'provider' offences decreased, from 31.7% to 21.1%

In WA over the 24 year period 1995/1996 > 2018/2019 annual arrests for amphetamine type stimulant offences -

- increased by nearly 15-fold, from 502 to 7,023
- the proportion of all arrests increased, from 3.4% to 31.5%
- the proportion of 'provider' offences decreased, from 30.7% to 19.2%

In WA over the 24 year period 1995/1996 > 2018/2019 annual arrests for all drug offences increased by 49.1%, from 14,968 to 22,319.

### Background

A national reporting system has operated in Australia since the late 1980s that provides information about drug law enforcement (DLE) activity in Australia. The priority on developing a national reporting system concerned with drugs was an outcome of parliamentary inquiries and Royal Commissions in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

The national drug reporting system is presently overseen by the Australian Crime Commission (ACC) and is underpinned by data sharing arrangements between separate law enforcement agencies that exist in each Australian jurisdiction.

The Australian Bureau of Criminal Intelligence (ABCI) established and coordinated the production of annual reports, the first version of these reports, **Major drugs report**, published for the 1988, 1989 and 1990 calendar years.

The report was expanded in 1991 and renamed the **Australian drug intelligence assessment report** (ADIAR). The ADIAR incorporated material that had previously published separately since 1985 by the Australian Federal Police (AFP), known as the **Illicit drugs in Australia situation report**.

In 1994 the ADIAR was renamed in 1994 the **Australian illicit drug report** (AIDR). The reporting year was changed from a calendar year to financial year in the following year. This meant that the 1995/1996 report contained 18 months data, ie from January 1995 to June 1996.

The 1995/1996 AIDR report was the first in a continuing series of annual reports that contains both annual and quarterly data for a number of indices of DLE activity broken down by type of offence and type of drug, of the number of arrests, seizures, purity or potency levels and estimates of mean prices, for each jurisdiction.

Until the 2001/2002 report, the AIDR was published annually by ABCI and subsequently published by the ACC. The ACC was formed by the merger in January 2003 of the ABCI, the National Crime Authority and the Office of Strategic Crime Assessment. The AIDR report was renamed the **Illicit drug data report** (IDDR) for the 2002/2003 year.

## Explanatory comments

The ACC reports are based on counts of 'arrests', referring to action by a law enforcement organisation against someone who has been suspected of being involved in illicit drugs, encompassing police action by arrest, summons, diversion to a program, the issuing of an infringement notice, or resulting in the issuing of a 'notice to appear' in Queensland.

More detailed information is contained in AIDR reports related to the definition of 'cannabis' (ie including a cannabis plant, leaf, resin, oil, seed and other forms of cannabis); 'heroin and other opioids' (ie opioid analgesics such as heroin, methadone and pethidine, as well as codeine, morphine and opium); and ATS (ie amphetamine, methylamphetamine and phenethylamines).

The AIDR reports adopt a methodology of classifying offenders into two broad groups, as either 'consumers' or 'providers'. This approach means that those charged with supply related offences, such as, importation, trafficking, selling, cultivation and manufacture are classified as 'providers', whereas those charged with offences such as possessing or administering drugs for their own use, are classified as 'consumers'.

However, with respect to minor cannabis offences which involve cultivation and where an offender has been issued with an infringement notice this offence is not counted as a 'consumer' offence in SA, the ACT and the NT (in WA up to October 2010), but recorded as a provider offence.

As described in the AIDR reports, counting is determined according to the circumstances of an offence. Where a person has been charged with multiple consumer or provider offences for a particular type of drug, the offender is counted as being either a consumer or provider of that drug.

In those situations where an offender has been charged with both consumer and provider charges, the provider charge takes precedence and accordingly the individual is counted as only being a provider of the drug involved.

In those situations where an individual has been charged with offences involving multiple drug types, they are counted as consumer or provider for each separate type of drug.

## Cautioning/diversion schemes

With respect to cannabis, a number of jurisdictions have introduced infringement schemes, the feature of which is they require expiation of the issued infringement notice.

Failure to expiate by payment of the prescribed penalty does not result in court appearance for the original offence but involves imposition of additional financial penalties for failure to pay, as the unpaid amount is treated as recoverable civil debt.

The rationale for this approach, which resembles the approach adopted to deal with a wide range of other minor offences, such as speeding and other motor vehicle offences, is to mitigate conviction stigma.

This approach may be described as 'depenalisation'. However, it is commonly referred to as 'decriminalisation', which misrepresents the nature of the reform, as the underlying offence still exists. The intention of the reform is to provide an alternative non-court adjudicated method, resting on police discretion, for dealing with a 'minor cannabis' offender.

In the other the remaining Australian jurisdictions conditional cautioning schemes operate to divert minor cannabis offenders from the courts, which include the possibility of punishment depending on compliance with caution and diversion to forms of education and/or intervention.

These approaches still retain the principle that non-compliance with the diversion requirements that are part of the caution, will involve appearance in a magistrates court. This can result in the imposition of penalties such as a fine or other form of sentence related to the original offence plus an attendant failure to adhere to the requirements of a police caution.

## Cannabis infringement schemes

The schemes which have operated in Australia - **South Australia (SA)**  
Cannabis expiation notice (CEN) scheme commenced on 30 April 1987.

**Australian Capital Territory (ACT)**  
Simple cannabis offence notice (SCON) scheme commenced in 1993.

**Northern Territory (NT)**  
Drug infringement notice (DIN) scheme commenced on 1 July 1996.

**Western Australia (WA)**  
Cannabis infringement notice (CIN) scheme commenced on 22 March 2004 and ceased 28 October 2010.

As at 31 December 2010 cannabis expiation schemes continued to operate in three Australian jurisdictions - SA, the ACT and the NT following the

repeal of the *Cannabis Control Act 2003* in WA on 28 October 2010.

## Western Australia

The cannabis cautioning mandatory education scheme (CCMES) commenced October 1998 and ceased after the introduction of the CIN scheme on 22 March 2004.

A conditional caution under the CCMES could be given to an adult for possession of up to 25 grams of cannabis, dependent on the person attending a cannabis education session (CES).

According to the counting rules in the AIDR, cautions were not separately counted but were included as consumer arrests.

The CIN scheme commenced 22 March 2004 and ceased October 2010. It covered three offences -

- possession of a smoking implement with detectable traces of cannabis (CCA Section 5)
- possession of not more than 30 grams of cannabis leaf (CCA Section 6)
- cultivation of no more than two non-hydroponically grown cannabis plants at the person's principal place of residence (CCA Section 7)

The CIN scheme provided for four expiable penalties -

- \$100 for a CIN for Section 5 offence
- \$100 for a CIN for Section 6 offences involving not more than 15 grams of cannabis
- \$150 for a CIN for a Section 6 offence involving more than 15 grams and up to 30 grams of cannabis
- \$200 for a CIN for a Section 7 offence involving non-hydroponically cultivation of up to 2 cannabis plants

The CIN scheme provided that a person may expiate a CIN by either attending a CES or payment of the relevant prescribed penalty. (Multiple CINs could be issued for more than one expiable offence committed on the same occasion, which were expiable by attendance at a single CES.)

The Cannabis intervention requirement (CIR) scheme commenced 1 August 2011, which reintroduced conditional cautioning for two minor cannabis offences -

- possession of drug paraphernalia in or on which there is cannabis [MDA Section 7B(6)], or
- possession of not more than 10 grams of cannabis [MDA Section 6(2)].

The CIR scheme provides for only one method of avoiding conviction, by attendance at a Cannabis intervention session (CIS). Failure to attend the CIS results in the person being charged with the predicate offence and dealt with at a Magistrate's Court.

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## Abbreviations

ABCI	Australian Bureau of Criminal Intelligence
ACC	Australian Crime Commission
ACT	Australian Capital Territory
ADIAR	Australian drug intelligence assessment report
AFP	Australian Federal Police
AIDR	Australian illicit drug report
CCA	Cannabis Control Act 2003
CEN	Cannabis expiation notice
CIN	Cannabis infringement notice
CIR	Cannabis intervention requirement
DIN	Drug infringement notice
DLE	Drug law enforcement
IDDR	Illicit drug data report
MDA	Misuse of Drugs Act 1981
NT	Northern Territory
SA	South Australia
SCON	Simple cannabis offence notice
WA	Western Australia

Written by: Greg Swensen - April 2021

## West Australian Arrests: 1995/1996 - 2018/2019

**Table W1**  
**All drug arrests by type of offence, WA, 1995/1996 - 2018/2019**

	Type of offence			Total	Providers %
	Consumers	Providers	Unknown		
1995/1996	9,611	5,357		14,968	35.8
1996/1997	9,062	5,026		14,088	35.7
1997/1998	8,309	4,989		13,298	37.5
1998/1999	5,489	1,753		7,242	24.2
1999/2000	6,914	1,914	50	8,878	21.6
2000/2001	7,956	2,114	21	10,091	20.9
2001/2002	7,513	2,016		9,529	21.2
2002/2003	6,009	1,818	31	7,858	23.1
2003/2004	7,385	2,184	36	9,605	22.7
2004/2005	10,436	2,364	80	12,880	18.4
2005/2006	9,061	1,657	62	10,780	15.4
2006/2007	10,330	2,782	0	13,112	21.2
2007/2008	10,382	2,083		12,465	16.7
2008/2009	11,053	2,223		13,276	16.7
2009/2010	10,268	2,144		12,412	17.3
2010/2011	8,450	1,547		9,997	15.5
2011/2012	8,806	2,621		11,427	22.9
2012/2013	9,812	2,776		12,588	22.1
2013/2014	13,414	2,888		16,302	17.7
2014/2015	14,965	3,438		18,403	18.7
2015/2016	19,196	4,091		23,287	17.6
2016/2017	21,268	3,926		25,194	15.6
2017/2018	21,366	901		22,267	4.0
2018/2019	19,038	3,281		22,319	14.7

Note: Totals may exceed sum of table components due to inclusion of unknown type of offence.

## West Australian Arrests: 1995/1996 - 2018/2019

**Table W2**  
**Heroin & other opioid arrests by type of offence, WA, 1995/1996 - 2018/2019**

	Type of offence			Total	Providers %
	Consumers	Providers	Unknown		
1995/1996	168	78		246	31.7
1996/1997	351	121		472	25.6
1997/1998	417	206		623	33.1
1998/1999	239	75		314	23.9
1999/2000	360	123		483	25.5
2000/2001	265	82		347	23.6
2001/2002	111	54		165	32.7
2002/2003	117	67		184	36.4
2003/2004	86	65		151	43.0
2004/2005	80	41		121	33.9
2005/2006	75	32	1	108	29.6
2006/2007	89	59	0	148	39.9
2007/2008	95	36		131	27.5
2008/2009	94	50		144	34.7
2009/2010	10,268	2,144		150	30.0
2010/2011	8,450	1,547		121	30.6
2011/2012	8,806	2,621		9,997	40.6
2012/2013	9,812	2,776		11,427	39.4
2013/2014	13,414	2,888		12,588	44.9
2014/2015	14,965	3,438		16,302	27.4
2015/2016	19,196	4,091		18,403	22.1
2016/2017	21,268	3,926		23,287	24.8
2017/2018	21,366	901		25,194	3.0
2018/2019	19,038	3,281		22,267	21.1

Note: Totals may exceed sum of table components due to inclusion of unknown type of offence.

## West Australian Arrests: 1995/1996 - 2018/2019

**Table W3**  
**Amphetamine type stimulant arrests by type of offence, WA, 1995/1996 - 2018/2019**

	Type of offence			Total	Providers %
	Consumers	Providers	Unknown		
1995/1996	348	154		502	30.7
1996/1997	324	164		488	33.6
1997/1998	403	264		667	39.6
1998/1999	547	148		695	21.3
1999/2000	810	292		1,102	26.5
2000/2001	1,308	446		1,754	25.4
2001/2002	1,231	494		1,725	28.6
2002/2003	901	395		1,296	30.5
2003/2004	1,171	538		1,709	31.5
2004/2005	1,405	634		2,039	31.1
2005/2006	1,379	515	9	1,903	27.1
2006/2007	2,160	851		3,011	28.3
2007/2008	2,398	904		3,302	27.4
2008/2009	2,319	924		3,243	28.5
2009/2010	1,474	716		2190	32.7
2010/2011	1,130	457		1,587	28.8
2011/2012	1,616	731		2,347	31.1
2012/2013	2,024	846		2,870	29.5
2013/2014	2,709	1,047		3,756	27.9
2014/2015	3,942	1,345		5,287	25.4
2015/2016	5,783	1,733		7,516	23.1
2016/2017	6,076	1,803		7,879	22.9
2017/2018	6,378	237		6,615	3.6
2009/2010	5,675	1,348		7,023	19.2

Note: Totals may exceed sum of table components due to inclusion of unknown type of offence.

## West Australian Arrests: 1995/1996 - 2018/2019

**Table W4**  
**Cannabis arrests by type of offence, WA, 1995/1996 - 2018/2019**

	Type of offence			Total	Providers %
	Consumers	Providers	Unknown		
1995/1996	8,866	5,037		13,903	36.2
1996/1997	8,102	4,602		12,704	36.2
1997/1998	7,149	4,338		11,487	37.8
1998/1999	4,577	1,510		6,087	24.8
1999/2000	5,409	1,373	16	6,798	20.2
2000/2001	5,992	1,378	1	7,371	18.7
2001/2002	5,846	1,310		7,156	18.3
2002/2003	4,766	1,247	15	6,028	20.7
2003/2004	4,809	1,297	2	6,108	21.2
2004/2005	7,609	1,312	34	8,955	14.7
2005/2006	6,426	967	18	7,411	13.0
2006/2007	6,266	1,386		7,652	18.1
2007/2008	6,119	716		6,835	10.5
2008/2009	6,861	782		7,643	10.2
2009/2010	6,824	841		7,665	11.0
2010/2011	5,765	613		6,378	9.6
2011/2012	5,294	1304		6,598	19.8
2012/2013	5,628	1,193		6,821	17.5
2013/2014	9,122	957		10,079	9.5
2014/2015	8,701	1,118		9,819	11.4
2015/2016	10,321	1,212		11,533	10.5
2016/2017	11,475	1,047		12,522	8.4
2017/2018	10,675	430		11,105	3.9
2009/2010	9,532	913		10,445	8.7

Note: Totals may exceed sum of table components due to inclusion of unknown type of offence..

## West Australian Arrests: 1995/1996 - 2018/2019

**Table W5**  
**Cannabis arrests by type of offence, WA, 1995/1996 - 2009/2010**

	Consumers				Providers		Total
	Cautions	Infringments	Arrests	Total	n	%	
1995/1996	-	-	8,866	8,866	5,037	36.2	13,903
1996/1997	-	-	8,102	8,102	4,602	36.2	12,704
1997/1998	-	-	7,149	7,149	4,338	37.8	11,487
1998/1999	71	-	4,506	4,577	1,510	24.8	6,087
1999/2000	272	-	5,137	5,409	1,373	20.2	6,798
2000/2001	870	-	5,122	5,992	1,378	18.7	7,371
2001/2002	954	-	4,892	5,846	1,310	18.3	7,156
2002/2003	901	-	3,865	4,766	1,247	20.7	6,028
2003/2004	501	1,014	3,294	4,809	1,297	21.2	6,108
2004/2005	-	3,782	3,827	7,609	1,312	14.7	8,955
2005/2006	-	3,208	3,218	6,426	967	13.0	7,411
2006/2007	-	1,878	4,388	6,266	1,386	18.1	7,652
2007/2008	-	1,464	4,655	6,119	716	10.5	6,835
2008/2009	-	1,328	5,533	6,861	782	10.2	7,643
2009/2010	-	1,391	5,433	6,824	841	11.0	7,665
2010/2011	-	1,331	4,434	5,765	613	9.6	6,378
2011/2012	1,177	-	4,117	5,294	1,304	19.8	6,598
2012/2013	1,463	-	4,165	5,628	1,193	17.5	6,821
2013/2014	1,793	-	7,329	9,122	957	9.5	10,079
2014/2015	1,877	-	6,824	8,701	1,118	11.4	9,819
2015/2016	2,099	-	8,222	10,321	1,212	10.5	11,533
2016/2017	2,004	-	9,471	11,475	1,047	8.4	12,522
2017/2018	1,763	-	8,912	10,675	430	3.9	11,105
2018/2019	1,546	-	7,986	9,532	913	8.7	10,445

Note: Cautions 1998/1999 > 2003/2004 refers to CCMES

Cautions 2011/2012 > refers to CIR

CIN scheme commenced 22 March 2004. However, as the 2003/2004 Australian illicit drug report omitted data for number of CINs issued in WA up to 30 June 2004, this table has an adjustment to include the 1,014 CINs issued up to 30 June 2004.

Cannabis cautioning mandatory education scheme (CCMES) commenced October 1998, initially as a 12 month pilot and then expanded Statewide in March 2000. The CCMES ceased after the introduction of the CIN scheme on 22 March 2004.

CIR scheme commenced 1 August 2011.



## West Australian Arrests: 1995/1996 - 2018/2019

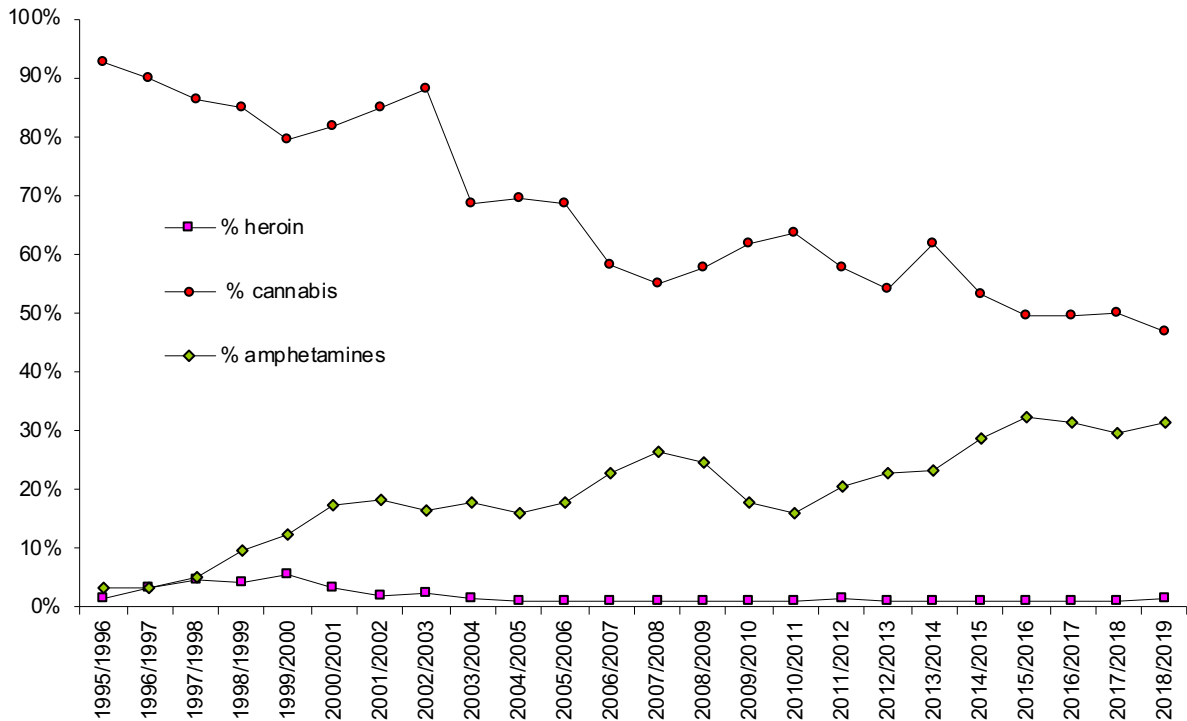
**Table W6**  
**Proportion (%) of drug arrests by selected drug group, WA, 1995/1996 - 2009/2010**

	Heroin & other opioids		ATS		Cannabis		Total
	n	%	n	%	n	%	All drugs
1995/1996	246	1.6	502	3.4	13,903	92.9	14,968
1996/1997	472	3.4	488	3.5	12,704	90.2	14,088
1997/1998	623	4.7	667	5.0	11,487	86.4	13,298
1998/1999	314	4.3	695	9.6	6,087	84.1	7,242
1999/2000	483	5.4	1,102	12.4	6,798	76.6	8,878
2000/2001	347	3.4	1,754	17.4	7,371	73.0	10,091
2001/2002	165	1.7	1,725	18.1	7,156	75.1	9,529
2002/2003	184	2.3	1,296	16.5	6,028	76.7	7,858
2003/2004	151	1.6	1,709	17.8	6,108	63.6	9,605
2004/2005	121	0.9	2,039	15.8	8,955	69.5	12,880
2005/2006	108	1.0	1,903	17.7	7,411	68.7	10,780
2006/2007	148	1.1	3,011	23.0	7,652	58.4	13,112
2007/2008	131	1.1	3,302	26.5	6,835	54.8	12,465
2008/2009	144	1.1	3,243	24.4	7,643	57.6	13,276
2009/2010	150	1.2	2,190	17.6	7,665	61.8	12,412
2010/2011	121	1.2	1,587	15.9	6,378	63.8	9,997
2011/2012	180	1.6	2,347	20.5	6,598	57.7	11,427
2012/2013	155	1.2	2,870	22.8	6,821	54.2	12,588
2013/2014	138	0.8	3,756	23.0	10,079	61.8	16,302
2014/2015	226	1.2	5,287	28.7	9,819	53.4	18,403
2015/2016	258	1.1	7,516	32.3	11,533	49.5	23,287
2016/2017	311	1.2	7,879	31.3	12,522	49.7	25,194
2017/2018	265	1.2	6,615	29.7	11,105	49.9	22,267
2018/2019	285	1.3	7,023	31.5	10,445	46.8	22,319

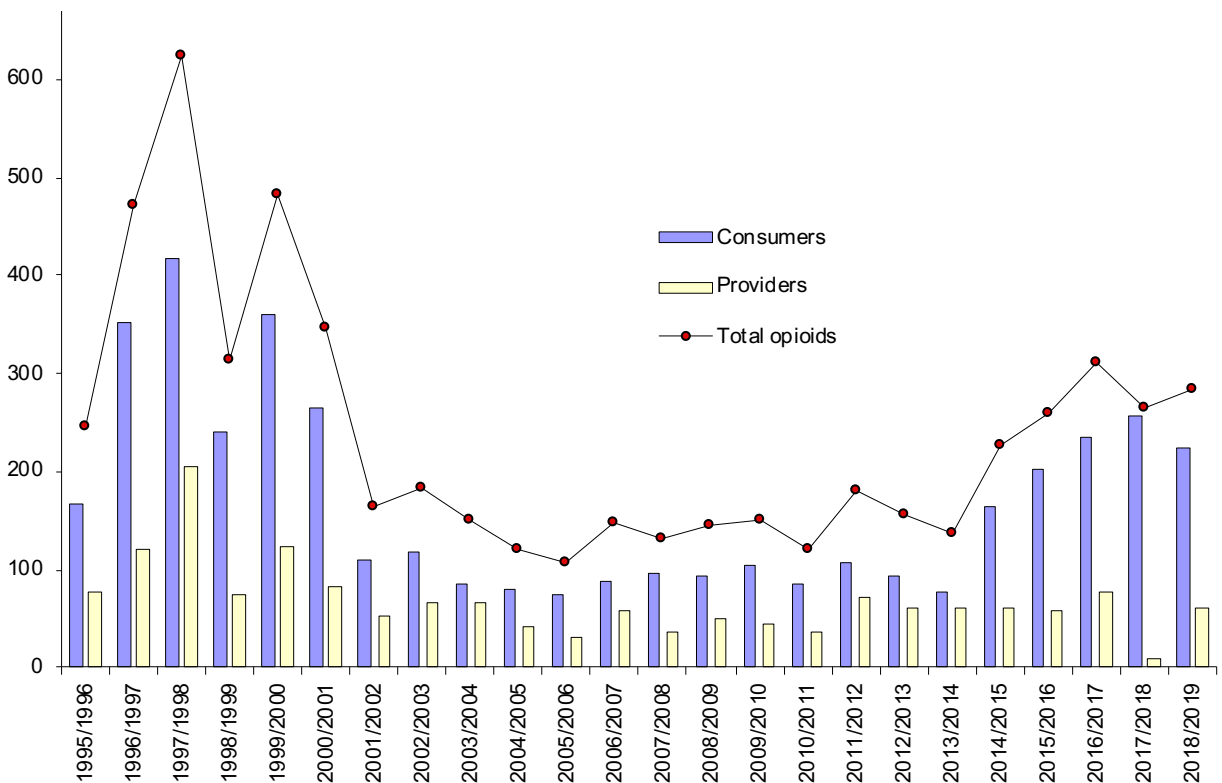
Note: ATS = Amphetamine type stimulant

## West Australian Arrests: 1995/1996 - 2018/2019

**Figure W1**  
Proportion (%) of drug arrests by selected drug group, WA, 1995/1996 - 2018/2019

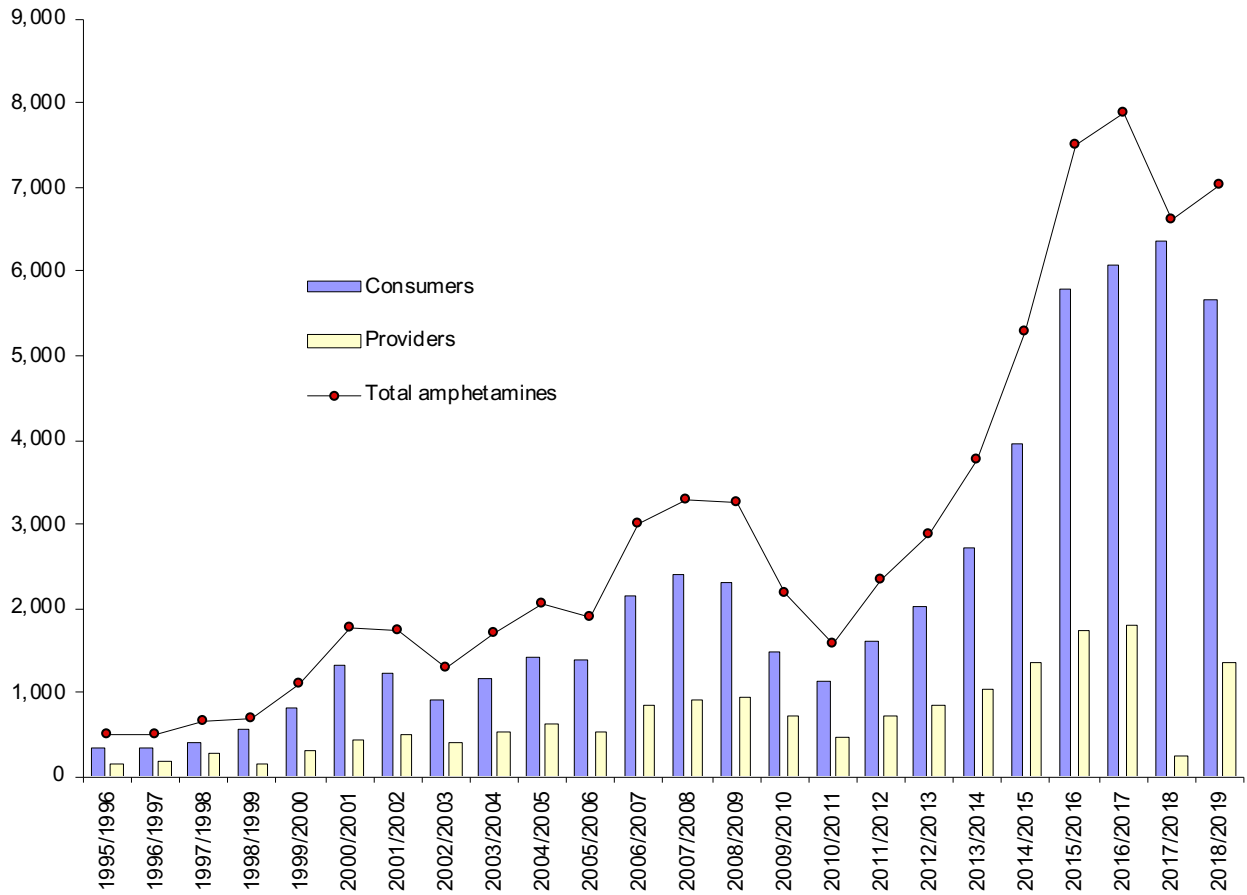


**Figure W2**  
Counts of heroin & opioid arrests by type of offence, WA, 1995/1996 - 2018/2019



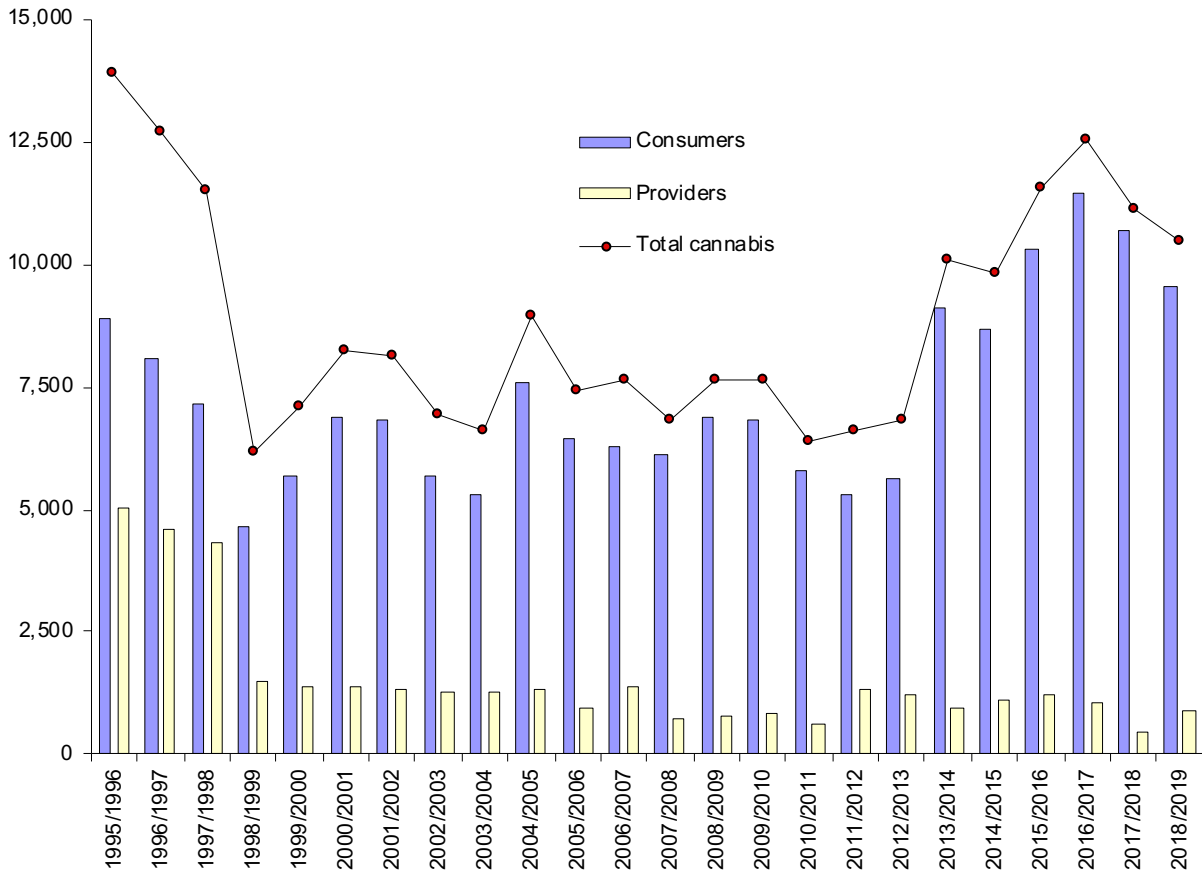
## West Australian Arrests: 1995/1996 - 2018/2019

**Figure W3**  
**Counts of ATS arrests by type of offence, WA, 1995/1996 - 2018/2019**

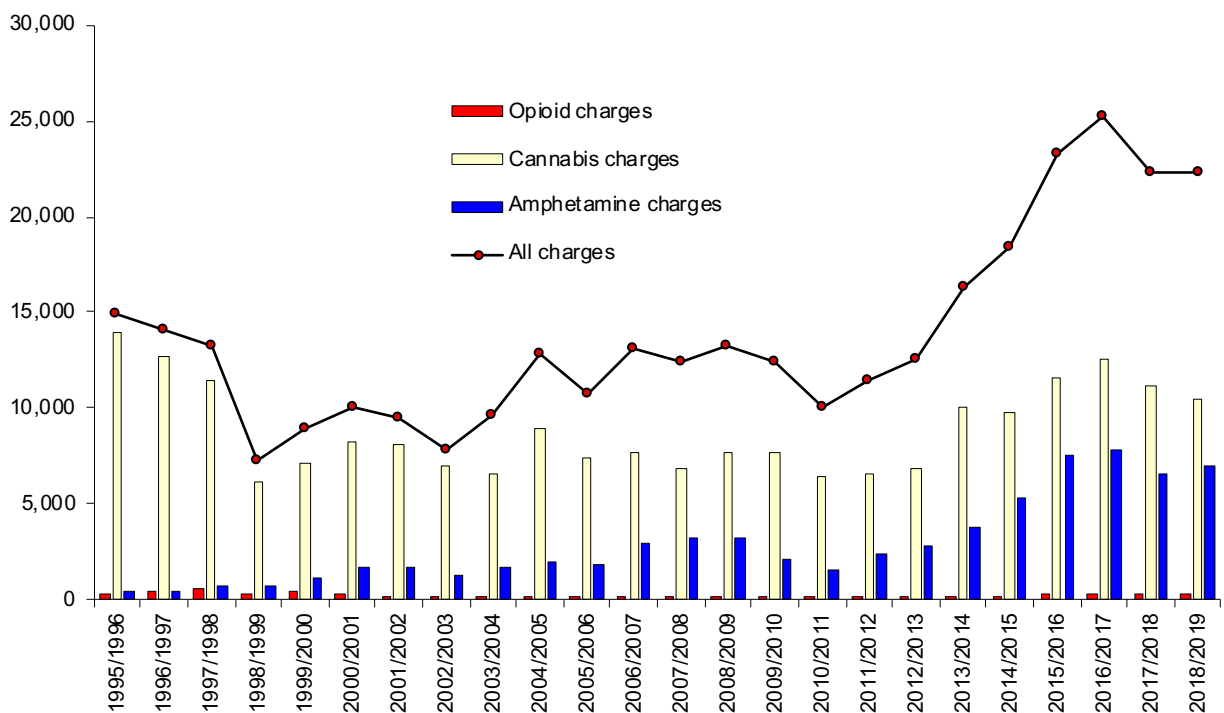


## West Australian Arrests: 1995/1996 - 2018/2019

**Figure W4**  
Counts of cannabis arrests by type of offence, WA, 1995/1996 - 2018/2019



**Figure W5**  
Counts of arrests by selected drug type, WA, 1995/1996 - 2018/2019



## Australian Arrests: 1995/1996 - 2018/2019

**Table A1**  
**All drug arrests by type of offence, Australia, 1995/1996 - 2018/2019**

	Type of offence			Total	Providers %
	Consumers	Providers	Unknown/ Adjustment		
1995/1996	73,800	24,994		98,794	25.3
1996/1997	47,530	24,313		71,843	33.8
1997/1998	60,774	23,348		84,122	27.8
1998/1999	65,836	17,688		83,524	21.2
1999/2000	66,723	14,601	1,725	83,049	17.6
2000/2001	63,766	12,697	1,543	78,006	16.3
2001/2002	58,768	14,457	582	73,807	19.6
2002/2003	59,657	14,753	563	74,973	19.7
2003/2004	62,829	15,451	746	79,026	19.6
2004/2005	62,209	14,613	511	77,333	18.9
2005/2006	63,520	14,756	257	78,533	18.8
2006/2007	66,541	15,715	133	82,389	19.1
2007/2008	63,799	14,407	469	78,675	18.3
2008/2009	67,920	15,330	623	83,873	18.3
2009/2010	68,776	15,624		84,400	18.5
2010/2011	69,731	14,125		83,856	16.8
2011/2012	76,165	16,339		92,504	17.7
2012/2013	83,042	17,108		100,150	17.1
2013/2014	92,882	18,513	654	112,049	16.5
2014/2015	112,340	20,755	831	133,926	15.5
2015/2016	135,037	18,382	119	153,538	12.0
2016/2017	136,227	17,519	904	154,650	11.3
2017/2018	133,346	13,697	1,320	148,363	9.2
2018/2019	136,242	15,743	1,392	153,377	10.3

Note: Totals may exceed sum of table components due to inclusion of unknown type of offence.

Unknown/adjustment refers to adjustment required to reconcile discrepancies between sub-total in columns and final total in published tables

## Australian Arrests: 1995/1996 - 2018/2019

**Table A2**  
**Heroin & other opioid arrests by type of offence, Australia, 1995/1996 - 2018/2019**

	Type of offence			Total	Providers %
	Consumers	Providers	Unknown/ Adjustment		
1995/1996	5,135	1,970		7,105	27.7
1996/1997	4,986	2,154		7,140	30.2
1997/1998	7,242	3,124		10,366	30.1
1998/1999	10,607	3,734		14,341	26.0
1999/2000	8,259	2,951		11,210	26.3
2000/2001	5,151	2,230		7,381	30.2
2001/2002	2,018	1,219		3,237	37.7
2002/2003	2,503	1,311		3,814	34.4
2003/2004	2,390	1,299	2	3,691	35.2
2004/2005	2,051	1,207	46	3,304	36.5
2005/2006	1,462	781	6	2,249	34.7
2006/2007	1,414	744	6	2,164	34.4
2007/2008	1,599	676	4	2,279	29.7
2008/2009	1,783	903	7	2,693	33.5
2009/2010	1,884	860		2,744	31.3
2010/2011	1,706	838		2,544	32.9
2011/2012	1,800	907		2,707	33.5
2012/2013	1,678	776		2,454	31.6
2013/2014	2,067	699	5	2,771	25.2
2014/2015	2,427	774	26	3,227	24.0
2015/2016	2,487	480	8	2,975	16.1
2016/2017	2,458	502	10	2,970	16.9
2017/2018	2,699	315	15	3,029	10.4
2018/2019	2,631	473	25	3,129	15.1

Note: Totals may exceed sum of table components due to inclusion of unknown type of offence.

Unknown/adjustment refers to adjustment required to reconcile discrepancies between sub-total in columns and final total in published tables

## Australian Arrests: 1995/1996 - 2018/2019

**Table A3**  
**Amphetamine type stimulant arrests by type of offence, Australia, 1995/1996 - 2018/2019**

	Type of offence			Total	Providers %
	Consumers	Providers	Unknown/ Adjustment		
1995/1996	3,118	1,096		4,214	26.0
1996/1997	2,702	1,205		3,907	30.8
1997/1998	3,349	1,417		4,766	29.7
1998/1999	4,976	1,608		6,584	24.4
1999/2000	6,252	1,829		8,081	22.6
2000/2001	6,768	2,071		8,839	23.4
2001/2002	5,815	2,212		8,027	27.6
2002/2003	5,914	2,340		8,254	28.3
2003/2004	6,734	2,805		9,539	29.4
2004/2005	7,297	2,696		9,993	27.0
2005/2006	8,183	3,623	42	11,848	30.6
2006/2007	10,895	4,292	29	15,216	28.2
2007/2008	11,608	4,399	40	16,047	27.4
2008/2009	11,778	4,629	45	16,452	28.1
2009/2010	9,993	3,921	68	13,982	28.0
2010/2011	9,501	3,334	62	12,897	25.9
2011/2012	12,590	4,216	22	16,828	25.1
2012/2013	19,955	6,265		26,220	23.9
2013/2014	19,955	6,265	49	26,269	23.8
2014/2015	27,502	7,862	104	35,468	22.2
2015/2016	40,527	6,885	213	47,625	14.5
2016/2017	40,837	6,553	141	47,531	13.8
2017/2018	40,144	4,441	302	44,887	9.9
2018/2019	41,055	4,992	390	46,437	10.8

Note: Totals may exceed sum of table components due to inclusion of unknown type of offence.

Unknown/adjustment refers to adjustment required to reconcile discrepancies between sub-total in columns and final total in published tables

## Australian Arrests: 1995/1996 - 2018/2019

**Table A4**  
**Cannabis arrests by type of offence, Australia, 1995/1996 - 2018/2019**

	Type of offence			Total	Providers %
	Consumers	Providers	Unknown/ Adjustment		
1995/1996	75,056	20,589		95,644	21.5
1996/1997	49,305	19,831		69,136	28.7
1997/1998	46,938	17,721		64,659	27.4
1998/1999	46,925	11,206		58,131	19.3
1999/2000	47,254	8,370		55,624	15.0
2000/2001	46,867	7,098		53,965	13.2
2001/2002	45,793	9,316		55,109	16.9
2002/2003	46,165	9,217		55,382	16.6
2003/2004	46,891	9,235		56,126	16.5
2004/2005	46,253	8,503		54,756	15.5
2005/2006	47,390	8,223		55,613	14.8
2006/2007	48,384	8,392		56,776	14.8
2007/2008	44,860	7,460		52,320	14.3
2008/2009	47,804	7,722	112	55,638	13.9
2009/2010	48,883	8,123	164	57,170	14.2
2010/2011	50,845	7,694	221	58,760	13.1
2011/2012	52,414	8,546	51	61,011	14.0
2012/2013	53,829	8,013		61,842	13.0
2013/2014	59,998	8,456		68,454	12.4
2014/2015	66,309	8,716	80	75,105	11.6
2015/2016	72,198	7,317	128	79,643	9.2
2016/2017	70,747	6,679	123	77,549	8.6
2017/2018	66,296	5,732	353	72,381	7.9
2018/2019	64,848	5,858	445	71,151	8.2

Note: Totals may exceed sum of table components due to inclusion of unknown type of offence.

Unknown/adjustment refers to adjustment required to reconcile discrepancies between sub-total in columns and final total in published tables



## Australian Arrests: 1995/1996 - 2018/2019

**Table A5**  
**Cannabis arrests by jurisdiction, Australia, 1995/1996 - 2018/2019**

	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT	Australia
1995/1996	14,677	19,120	9,436	34,878	13,903	2,518	378	734	95,644
1996/1997	14,146	9,121	14,839	16,082	12,704	1,079	680	485	69,136
1997/1998	15,460	9,034	13,021	13,452	11,487	1,196	635	374	64,659
1998/1999	15,738	9,286	13,386	11,968	6,087	736	693	237	58,131
1999/2000	14,121	7,419	13,654	11,789	6,782	798	900	161	55,624
2000/2001	13,736	6,473	13,178	10,974	7,370	1,050	850	334	53,965
2001/2002	12,121	6,692	17,068	9,812	7,156	1,540	437	283	55,109
2002/2003	12,368	7,022	19,879	7,877	6,013	1,794	149	280	55,382
2003/2004	11,054	7,620	22,065	7,301	6,106	1,633	1	346	56,126
2004/2005	6,503	7,221	23,355	6,296	8,921	1,353	797	310	54,756
2005/2006	8,819	6,901	23,235	7,096	7,393	906	962	301	55,613
2006/2007	9,873	6,836	22,699	6,796	7,652	1,731	876	313	56,776
2007/2008	10,663	6,681	17,130	7,917	6,835	1,920	855	319	52,320
2008/2009	12,168	6,884	16,588	9,137	7,643	1,824	980	302	55,638
2009/2010	12,718	7,066	16,325	10,019	7,665	1,926	970	317	57,006
2010/2011	14,106	7,144	16,277	11,771	6,378	1,702	830	331	58,539
2011/2012	13,965	7,916	17,733	11,412	6,598	1,659	1,320	359	60,962
2012/2013	14,530	8,305	18,365	11,043	6,821	1,338	1,049	391	61,842
2013/2014	15,741	8,558	20,219	11,501	10,079	930	1,029	397	68,454
2014/2015	16,715	10,292	23,850	11,364	9,819	1,446	1,108	431	75,105
2015/2016	17,786	9,717	25,307	11,581	11,533	1,452	1,711	428	79,643
2016/2017	16,746	10,164	23,836	11,077	12,522	1,460	1,235	386	77,549
2017/2018	16,431	9,675	21,126	10,633	11,105	1,591	1,077	390	72,381
2018/2019	16,004	10,485	21,780	9,234	10,445	1,435	1,080	243	71,151

Note: Totals may exceed sum of table components due to inclusion of unknown type of offence.  
Includes both arrests and infringements/cautions

## Australian Arrests: 1995/1996 - 2018/2019

**Table A6**  
**Cannabis infringements by jurisdiction & total arrests, Australia, 1995/1996 - 2018/2019**

	Infringement notices (SA, ACT, NT, WA)					Arrests (excl infringements)		Total Arrests + Infringe- ments	Infringements % total
	SA	ACT	NT	WA	Total	Un- known/ Adjust- ment			
1995/1996	16,401	295			16,696	78,948		95,644	17.5
1996/1997	9,336	240	205		9,781	55,933		69,136	19.1
1997/1998	7,969	151	200		8,320	53,455		64,659	17.3
1998/1999	7,279	91	304		7,674	48,237		58,131	17.0
1999/2000	8,651	161	779		9,591	46,033		55,624	17.2
2000/2001	8,705	184	409		9,298	44,667		53,965	17.2
2001/2002	7,435	105	314		7,854	47,255		55,109	14.3
2002/2003	5,849	84	148		6,081	49,301		55,382	11.0
2003/2004	5,382	79	-	1,014	6,475	49,651		56,126	11.5
2004/2005	4,784	82	409	3,782	9,057	45,699		54,756	16.5
2005/2006	5,502	61	481	3,208	9,252	46,361		55,613	16.6
2006/2007	5,393	89	339	1,878	7,699	49,077		56,776	13.6
2007/2008	6,157	92	378	1,464	8,091	44,229		52,320	15.5
2008/2009	6,973	74	456	1,328	8,831	46,695		55,526	15.9
2009/2010	7,530	73	466	1,391	9,460	47,546		57,006	16.6
2010/2011	9,055	94	442	1,331	10,922	47,617		58,539	18.7
2011/2012	8,878	94	703		9,675	51,287		60,962	15.9
2012/2013	8,677	114	521		9,312	52,530		61,842	15.1
2013/2014	9,204	131	565		9,900	58,554		68,454	14.5
2014/2015	9,191	97	644		9,932	65,093	80	75,105	13.2
2015/2016	9,608	95	768		10,471	69,044	128	79,643	13.1
2016/2017	9,200	82	707		9,989	67,437	123	77,549	12.9
2017/2018	8,961	52	675		9,688	62,340	353	72,381	13.4
2018/2019	8,093	55	732		8,880	61,826	445	71,151	12.5

Note: Totals may exceed sum of table components due to inclusion of unknown type of offence.

Unknown/adjustment refers to adjustment required to reconcile discrepancies between sub-total in columns and final total in published tables

WA CIN scheme operated from 22 March 2004 > 28 October 2010. Annual totals are recorded as infringements.

Replaced by CIR scheme from 1 August 2011 which involves conditional cautions

The IDDR reports separately record CIRs as infringements and not as cautions. This has been adjusted by including CIRs into total arrests..

## Australian Arrests: 1995/1996 - 2018/2019

**Table A7**

**Proportion (%) of drug arrests by selected drug group, Australia, 1995/1996 - 2018/2019**

	Heroin & other opioid		ATS		Cannabis		Total
	n	%	n	%	n	%	All drugs
1995/1996	7,105	7.2	4,214	4.3	95,644	96.8	98,794
1996/1997	7,140	9.9	3,907	5.4	69,136	96.2	71,843
1997/1998	10,366	12.3	4,766	5.7	64,659	76.9	84,122
1998/1999	14,341	17.2	6,584	7.9	58,131	69.6	83,524
1999/2000	11,210	13.5	8,081	9.7	55,624	67.0	83,049
2000/2001	7,381	9.5	8,839	11.3	53,965	69.2	78,006
2001/2002	3,237	4.4	8,027	10.9	55,109	74.7	73,807
2002/2003	3,814	5.1	8,254	11.0	55,382	73.9	74,973
2003/2004	3,691	4.7	9,539	12.1	56,126	71.0	79,026
2004/2005	3,304	4.3	9,993	12.9	54,756	70.8	77,333
2005/2006	2,249	2.9	11,848	15.1	55,613	70.8	78,533
2006/2007	2,164	2.6	15,216	18.5	56,776	68.9	82,389
2007/2008	2,279	2.9	16,047	20.4	52,320	66.5	78,675
2008/2009	2,686	3.2	16,452	19.8	55,638	66.8	83,250
2009/2010	2,744	3.3	13,982	16.6	57,170	67.7	84,400
2010/2011	2,544	3.0	12,897	15.4	58,760	70.1	83,856
2011/2012	2,707	2.9	16,828	18.2	61,011	66.0	92,504
2012/2013	2,454	2.5	26,220	26.2	61,842	61.7	100,150
2013/2014	2,771	2.5	26,269	23.4	68,454	61.1	112,049
2014/2015	3,227	2.4	35,468	26.5	75,105	56.1	133,926
2015/2016	2,975	1.9	47,625	31.0	79,643	51.9	153,538
2016/2017	2,970	1.9	47,531	30.7	77,549	50.1	154,650
2017/2018	3,029	2.0	44,887	30.3	72,381	48.8	148,363
2018/2019	3,129	2.0	46,437	30.3	71,151	46.4	153,377

Note: ATS = Amphetamine type stimulants.

## Australian Arrests: 1995/1996 - 2018/2019

**Figure A1**  
**Proportion (%) of drug arrests by selected drug group, Australia, 1995/1996 - 2018/2019**

