

Arrests for Drug Offences, Australia & Western Australia:1995/1996 - 2009/2010

Background

A national reporting system has operated in Australia since the late 1980s to provide information about drug law enforcement (DLE) activity. The impetus to develop a national reporting system concerned with illicit 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 the law enforcement agencies that exist in each Australian jurisdiction.

The Australian Bureau of Criminal Intelligence (ABCI) established and coordinated the publication of annual reports containing both national and jurisdictional data. The first such report, the **Major drugs report**, was produced by the ABCI for the 1988, 1989 and 1990 calendar years.

The report was expanded in 1991 and renamed the **Australian drug intelligence assessment report** (ADIAR) as it incorporated material which had been published separately since 1985 by the Australian Federal Police (AFP) that had involved a number of Commonwealth and state DLE organisations. The AFP report was known as the **Illicit drugs in Australia situation report**.

In 1994 the ADIAR was renamed in 1994 the **Australian illicit drug report** (AIDR). The 1994 AIDR contained for the first time an annual breakdown of the number of arrests by type of drug and offence for each Australian jurisdiction. The reporting year was changed from a calendar year to the 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 what has remained a continuing series of annual reports that present 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. This information is broken down by a number of drug groups for each separate jurisdiction.

Up until the 2001/2002 report, the AIDR was published annually by ABCI. Subsequently it has been 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.

Scope

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. This data has been extracted from annual reports published between 1995/1996 and the most recent report, the 2008/2009 report.

Additional detailed information is provided concerning cannabis offences because the preponderance of DLE activity in all jurisdictions involves minor offenders, what are classified in the IDDR as being 'consumer' type offences.

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.

With respect to cannabis, a number of jurisdictions have introduced infringement schemes, whereas in the remaining jurisdictions cautioning schemes operate to divert minor cannabis offenders from the courts.

The cannabis expiation notice (CEN) scheme commenced in South Australia (SA) on 30 April 1987; the simple cannabis offence notice (SCON) scheme commenced in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) in 1993; the drug infringement notice (DIN) scheme commenced in the Northern Territory (NT) on 1 July 1996 and the cannabis infringement notice (CIN) scheme commenced in WA on 22 March 2004.

As at 31 December 2010 cannabis expiation schemes continued to operate in SA, the ACT and the NT following the repeal of the *Cannabis Control Act 2003* in WA on 28 October 2010.

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 amphetamine type stimulants (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 those charged with supply related offences, such as, importation, trafficking, selling, cultivation and manufacture are classified as 'providers' and 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, the NT and 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.

Abbreviations

ABCI	Australian Bureau of Criminal Intelligence
ACC	Australian Crime Commission
ACT	Australian Capital Territory
ADIDR	Australian drug intelligence assessment report
AFP	Australina Federal Police
AIDR	Australian illicit drug report
ATS	Amphetamine type stimulants
CEN	Cannabis expiation notice
CIN	Cannabis infringement notice
DIN	Drug infringement notice
IDDR	Illicit drug data report
NSW	New South Wales
NT	Northern Territory
QLD	Queensland
SA	South Australia
SCON	Simple cannabis offence notice
TAS	Tasmania
VIC	Victoria
WA	Western Asustralia

Australian Trends: 1995/1996 - 2009/2010

Table A1: All drug arrests by type of offence, Australia, 1995/1996 - 2009/2010

	Type of offence			Total	Providers
	Consumers	Providers	Unknown		%
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	852	85,252	18.3

Note: Totals may exceed sum of table components due to inclusion of unknown type of offence. Unknown includes adjustment due to discrepancies between totals & sub-totals in published data tables.

Table A2: Heroin & other opioid arrests by type of offence, Australia, 1995/1996 - 2009/2010

	Type of offence			Total	Providers
	Consumers	Providers	Unknown		%
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	23	2,767	31.1

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

Australian Trends: 1995/1996 - 2009/2010

Table A3: Amphetamine type stimulant arrests by type of offence, Australia, 1995/1996 - 2009/2010

	Type of offence			Total	Providers
	Consumers	Providers	Unknown		%
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

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

Table A4: Cannabis arrests by type of offence, Australia, 1995/1996 - 2009/2010

	Type of offence			Total	Providers
	Consumers	Providers	Unknown		%
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

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

Includes arrests & infringements.

Australian Trends: 1995/1996 - 2009/2010

Table A5: Cannabis arrests by jurisdiction, Australia, 1995/1996 - 2009/2010

	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	57,170

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

Includes arrests & infringements.

Table A6: Cannabis infringements by jurisdiction & total arrests, Australia, 1995/1996 - 2009/2010

	Infringement notices (SA, ACT, NT, WA)					Arrests (all jurisdictions)		Total (infringements + arrests)	Infringements %
	SA	ACT	NT	WA	Total	Arrests	Unknown		
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	0	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	112	55,638	15.9
2009/2010	7,530	73	466	1,391	9,460	47,546	164	57,170	16.6

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

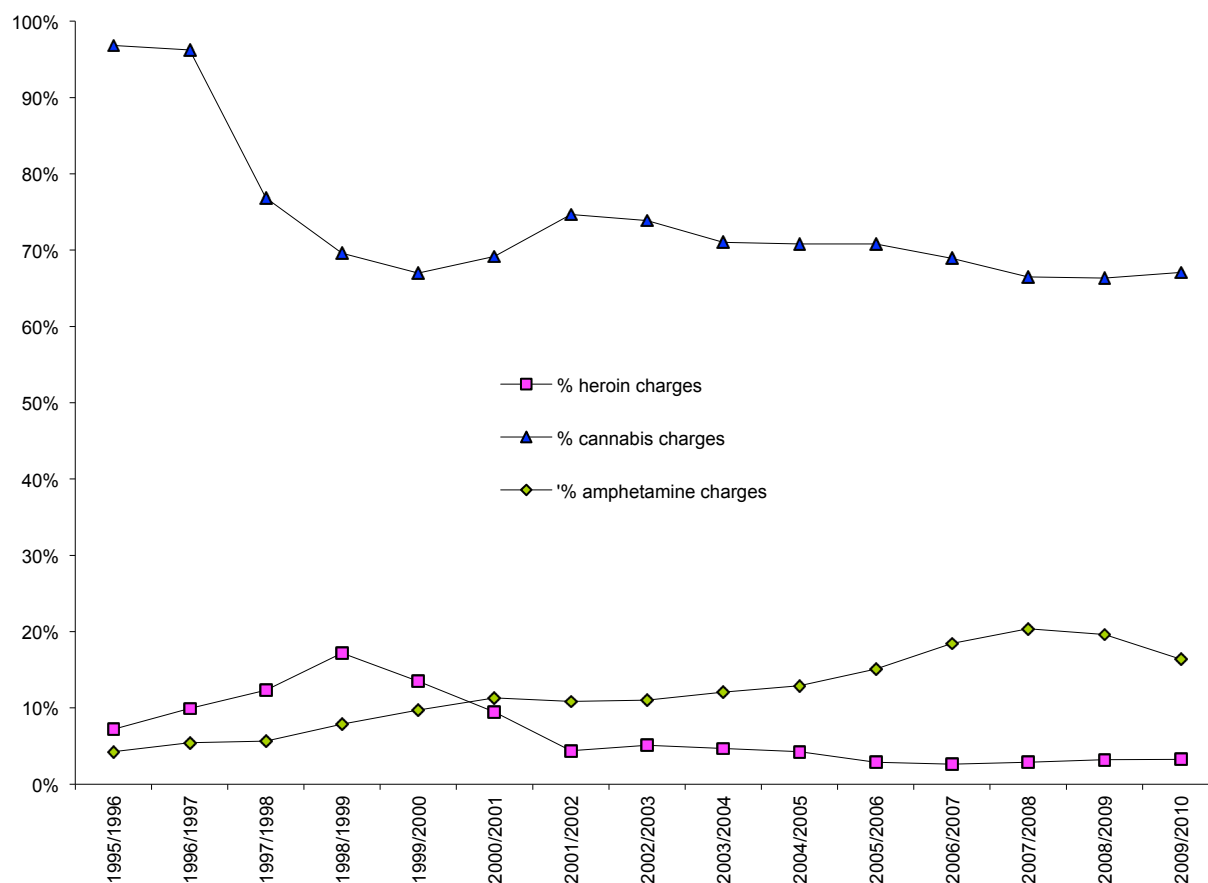
Australian Trends: 1995/1996 - 2009/2010

Table A7: Proportion (%) of drug arrests by selected drug group, , Australia, 1995/1996 - 2009/2010

	Heroin & other opioids		ATS		Cannabis		Total
	n	%	n	%	n	%	
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	2,693	3.2	16,452	19.6	55,638	66.3	83,873
2009/2010	2,767	3.2	13,982	16.4	57,170	67.1	85,252

Note: ATS = Amphetamine type stimulants.

Figure A1: Proportion (%) of drug arrests by selected drug group, Australia, 1995/1996 - 2009/2010



West Australian Trends: 1995/1996 - 2009/2010

Table W1: All drug arrests by type of offence, WA, 1995/1996 - 2009/2010

	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	-	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

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

Table W2: Heroin & other opioid arrests by type of offence, WA, 1995/1996 - 2009/2010

	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	-	148	39.9
2007/2008	95	36	-	131	27.5
2008/2009	94	50	-	144	34.7
2009/2010	105	45	-	150	30.0

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

West Australian Trends: 1995/1996 - 2009/2010

Table W3: Amphetamine type stimulant arrests by type of offence, WA, 1995/1996 - 2009/2010

	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	-	2,190	32.7

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

Table W4: Cannabis arrests by type of offence, WA, 1995/1996 - 2009/2010

	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

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

Includes arrests & infringements.

West Australian Trends: 1995/1996 - 2009/2010

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

	Consumers				Providers		Total
	Cautions (CCMES)	Infringements	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

Note: The cannabis infringement notice (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.

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

Source: Additional CIN data - Drug & Alcohol Office. **Statutory review of Cannabis Control Act 2003: Technical report.** Perth, WA, Drug & Alcohol Office, 2007. Table A4-9.

Cautions data - Drug & Alcohol Office. **Statutory review of Cannabis Control Act 2003: Supplementary data tables and figures.** Perth, WA, Drug & Alcohol Office, 2007. Table A3-1.

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

	Heroin & other opioids		ATS		Cannabis		Total
	n	%	n	%	n	%	
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

West Australian Trends: 1995/1996 - 2009/2010

Figure W1: Proportion (%) of drug arrests by selected drug group, WA, 1995/1996 - 2009/2010

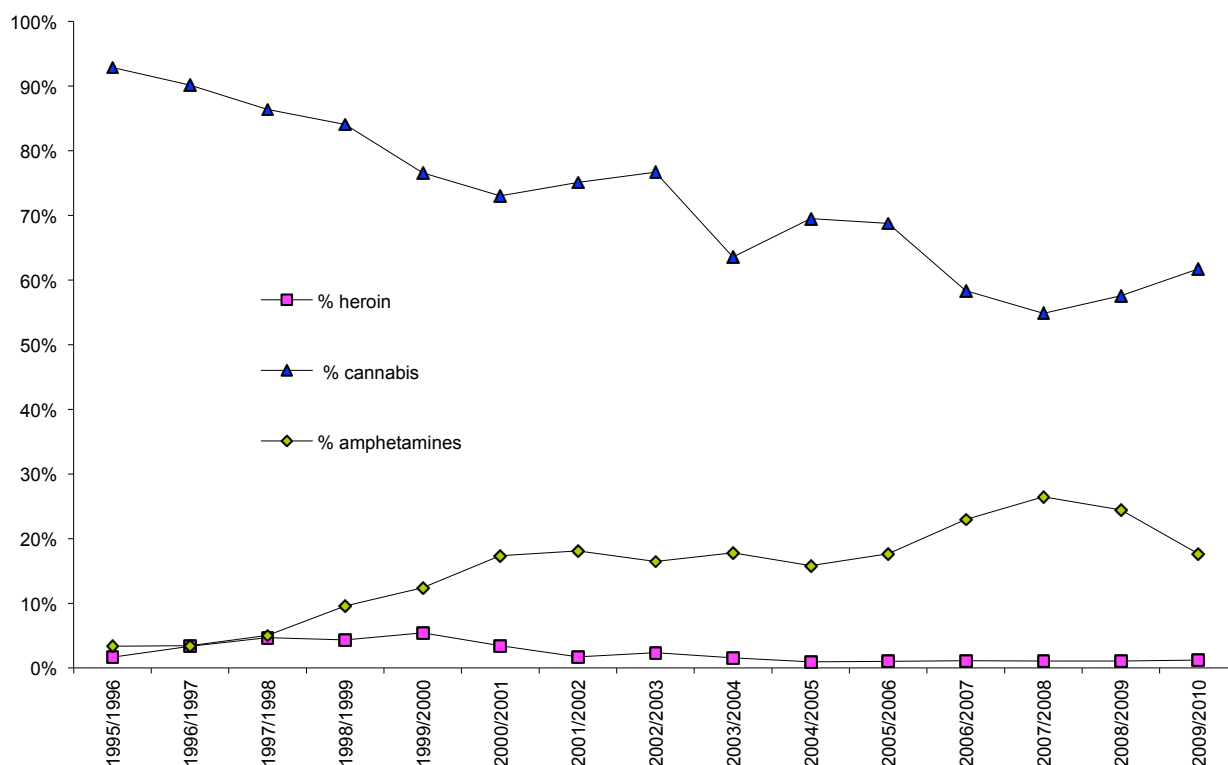
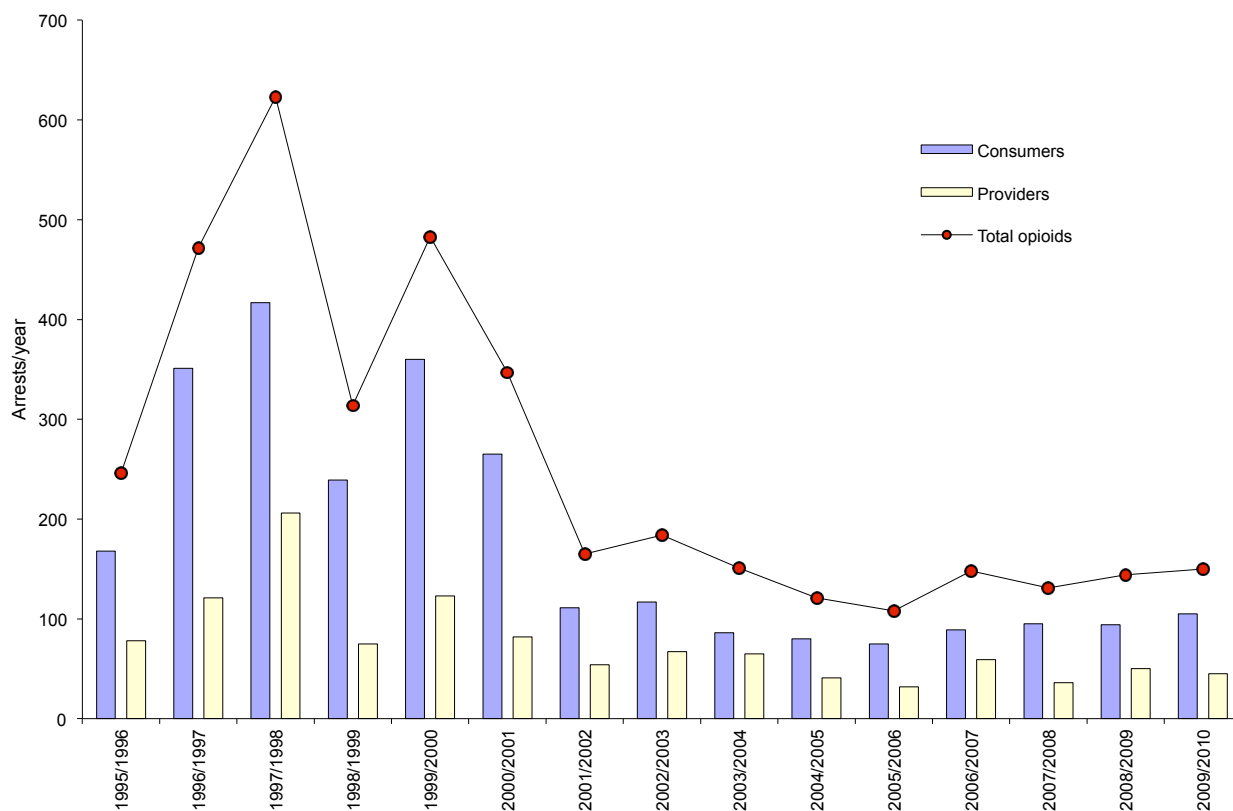


Figure W2: Count of heroin & opioid arrests by type of offence, WA, 1995/1996 - 2009/2010



West Australian Trends: 1995/1996 - 2009/2010

Figure W3: Count of amphetamine type stimulant arrests by type of offence, WA, 1995/1996 - 2009/2010

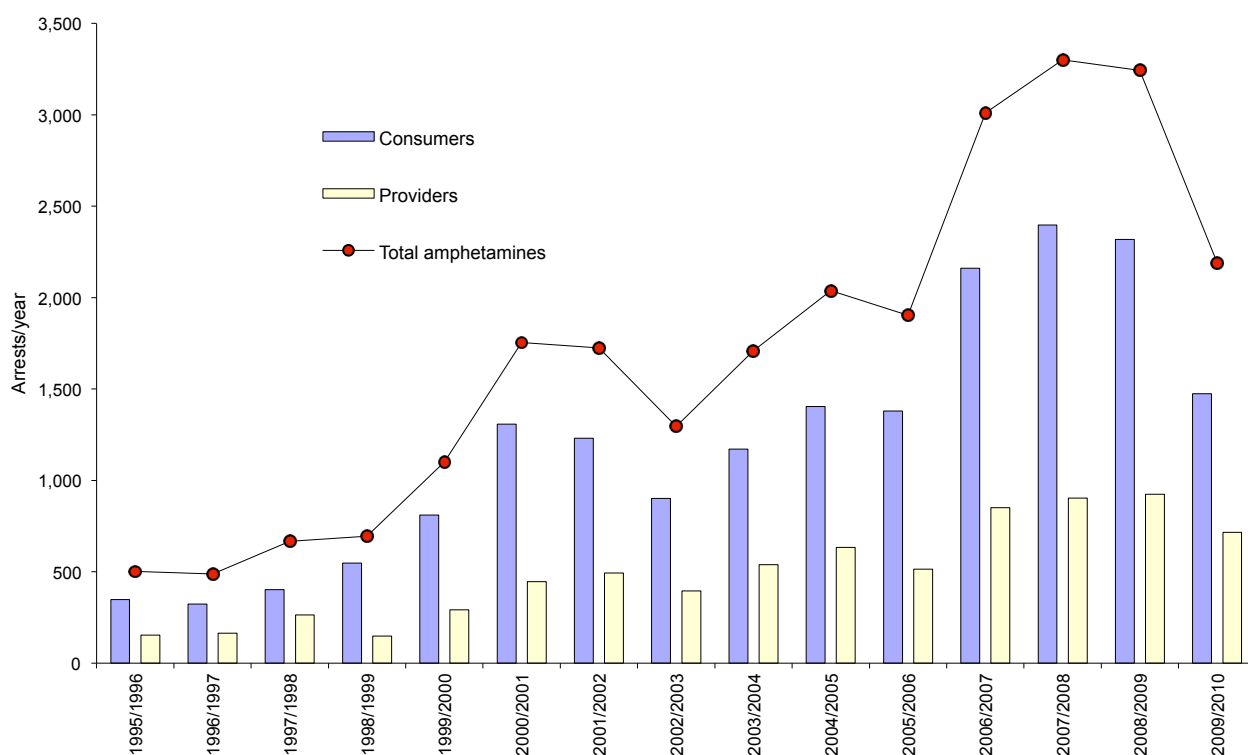


Figure W4: Count of cannabis arrests by type of offence, WA, 1995/1996 - 2009/2010

