

Data Collection and Reporting Methodology

The ACC used the National Illicit Drug Reporting Format (NIDRF) data processing system to process seizure, arrest and purity data for the 2002–03 report. This allowed for more accurate analysis of law enforcement data and assists in moving towards nationally standardised data holdings.

The movement towards more accurate data has been facilitated by the continued efforts of police statisticians and/or information managers in each of the state, territory and commonwealth agencies over the period covered by this report. The need to improve law enforcement illicit drug data was progressed further at the 2nd National Illicit Drug Statistics workshop in July 2003. Continual improvement in data quality has also been applied to previous years and revised figures should be noted.

Counting Methodology

The following methodology was used to develop a count of arrests by drug-type:

- where a person has been charged with multiple consumer or provider offences for a particular type of drug, that person is counted once only as a consumer or provider of that drug;
- where consumer *and* provider charges for a particular drug-type have been laid, the provider charge takes precedence and the person is counted only as a provider of that drug;
- a person who has been charged in relation to multiple drug-types is counted as a consumer or provider for each drug-type; and
- a person is counted on each separate occasion that they are charged.