

Foreword

Welcome to the 2003–04 edition of the Australian Crime Commission’s (ACC) *Illicit Drug Data Report (IDDR)*.

The data contained in this report provides law enforcement, decision-makers, National Illicit Drug Strategy stakeholders and research bodies with a national overview of the illicit drug situation in Australia for the 2003–04 financial year.



The *IDDR* is a unique and valuable resource which provides information on emerging illicit drug trends and threats, data on drug purity, arrests, seizures, prices and availability.

The *IDDR* is produced by the ACC as part of a suite of evolving and timely intelligence products tailored to law enforcement needs, allowing the ACC to alert agencies of emerging trends and threats, facilitating an effective response.

To ensure the *IDDR* continues to be a document of the highest quality that meets stakeholder expectations, the ACC has responded to your feedback.

Australian law enforcement is committed to ensuring the detrimental effects of illicit drugs on the Australian community are minimised. I would like to thank all stakeholders for their continued cooperation in providing data for this report.

The ACC, in cooperation with various law enforcement partners, is proud to have had a significant impact on criminal networks perpetrating illicit drug crimes in 2003–04.

I recommend the second edition of the *IDDR* to you and your organisation, and look forward to your feedback.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alastair Milroy'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Alastair Milroy
Chief Executive Officer
Australian Crime Commission

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List of key contributors:

- Australian Customs Service
- Australian Federal Police
- Australian Federal Police – ACT Policing
- Division of Analytical Laboratories (New South Wales Department of Health)
- Forensic Science Service Tasmania
- New South Wales Police
- Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services
- Queensland Health Scientific Services
- Queensland Police Service
- South Australia Forensic Science Centre
- South Australia Police
- Tasmania Police
- Victoria Forensic Science Centre
- Victoria Police
- Western Australia Forensic Science Laboratory
- Western Australia Police Service.

The Australian Crime Commission also wishes to thank the Australian Government Attorney-General's Department, the Australian Institute of Criminology and the Department of Health and Ageing.

Abbreviations

AAS	Anabolic and Androgenic Steroids
ABCI	Australian Bureau of Criminal Intelligence
ACC	Australian Crime Commission
ACT	Australian Capital Territory
ADF	Australian Drug Foundation
AFP	Australian Federal Police
AIC	Australian Institute of Criminology
ASDA	Australian Sports Drug Agency
ATS	Amphetamine-type stimulants
CAMH	Centre for Addiction and Mental Health
CENs	Cannabis Expiation Notices
DHEA	Dehydroepiandrosterone
DINs	Drug Infringement Notices
DOB	4-bromo-2,5-dimethoxyphenethylamine
DOM	2,5-dimethoxy-4-methylamphetamine
DUMA	Drug Use Monitoring in Australia
GBL	Gamma butyrolactone
GHB	Gamma-hydroxybutyrate
IDRS	Illicit Drug Reporting System
INCS	International Narcotics Control Strategy
JACG	Joint Asian Crime Group
LSD	Lysergic acid diethylamide
MBDB	N-methyl-1-(1,3-benzodioxol-5-yl)-2-butanamine
MDA	3,4-methylenedioxyamphetamine
MDEA	3,4-methylenedioxy-N-ethylamphetamine
MDMA	3,4-methylenedioxymethylamphetamine
MDP2P	3,4-methylenedioxyphenyl-2-propanone
4-MTA	4-methylthioamphetamine
NDARC	National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre
NIDA	National Institute on Drug Abuse
NIDRF	National Illicit Drug Reporting Format
NSW	New South Wales
NT	Northern Territory
P2P	Phenyl-2-propanone
PCP	Phencyclidine
PHMA	Peptide Hormone Mimetics and Analogues
PMA	Paramethoxyamphetamine
Qld	Queensland
RCMP	Royal Canadian Mounted Police
SA	South Australia
SCONs	Simple Cannabis Offence Notices
Tas	Tasmania
TCADA	Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse
THC	Delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
USDEA	United States Drug Enforcement Administration
Vic	Victoria
WA	Western Australia

Introduction

The Australian Crime Commission (ACC) collects data annually from all state and territory police services, the Australian Federal Police (AFP), the Australian Customs Service and the state and territory analytical laboratories. The illicit drug data collected and presented in this report for the 2003–04 financial year includes:

- consumer and provider arrests;
- seizures;
- purity levels; and
- prices.

The *Illicit Drug Data Report* is the only report of its type in Australia and provides governments, law enforcement agencies and interested stakeholders with a national picture of the illicit drug market. This report provides the data necessary to assess possible future illicit drug trends, and provides a brief analysis of those trends. It is important to note that the analysis contained in this report is yearly and may differ from analyses conducted by the individual jurisdictions on a monthly or quarterly basis.

The purpose of this report is to provide statistics and analysis that will assist decision-makers in developing illicit drug supply and harm reduction strategies. The data also assists the Australian Government to meet national and international reporting obligations.

The ACC continues to utilise the National Illicit Drug Reporting Format (NIDRF) to assist in reducing errors and standardising the data received from each of the law enforcement agencies and other contributing organisations.

Key Findings

Amphetamine-Type Stimulants

- Methylamphetamine is the dominant form of amphetamine produced, imported and used in Australia.
- Increased demand for high purity crystal methylamphetamine (ice) is likely to see attempted importation and possibly domestic production increase in the short term.
- Production techniques will continue to change in response to precursor availability and law enforcement focus, and may possibly include the decentralisation of production methods to minimise detection risk.
- High levels of harm associated with clandestine laboratory production will continue given the types of chemicals and production techniques involved.

Phenethylamines

- The majority of the world's MDMA (ecstasy) continues to be produced in clandestine laboratories in the Netherlands and, to a lesser extent, Belgium.
- Regional countries identified as likely sources of MDMA include the Philippines, Thailand, China, Indonesia and Burma.
- Demand for MDMA in Australia continued to increase. Recent seizure of clandestine laboratories indicates domestically produced MDMA is available and production is increasing.

Cannabis

- Cannabis remained widely cultivated and available throughout Australia.
- The two main cannabis cultivation methods are outdoor bush crops and hydroponic production.
- Hydroponic cannabis continued to be highly sought after by users.
- Quality and type remain the major determinants in the price of cannabis.

Heroin

- The total weight of heroin seized at the border for 2003–04 is the lowest recorded in Australia for a decade.
- Despite a projected record opium crop in Afghanistan for 2004, the traditional source of Australian heroin is likely to remain South East Asia.
- The purity of heroin continued to fluctuate between and within jurisdictions. However, median heroin purity levels remain lower than those recorded prior to 2000.

Cocaine

- The number of domestic cocaine seizures has steadily increased since 1999–2000, however, the total weight of seizures is at its lowest level since 1998–99.
- The price, availability and seizure statistics indicate that the market for cocaine remained stable within Australia.
- There has been an increase in the detections of 'scatter' importations of cocaine in the post, air cargo and air passenger streams, whereas there have been no detections in the small craft stream.

Other Drugs

- The number of domestic steroid seizures has steadily increased since 1999–2000.
- The use of anaesthetics such as ketamine and GHB (fantasy) is becoming more prevalent.
- The majority of pharmaceuticals obtained for illicit use are benzodiazepines and opiates.