

I would like to thank all involved in the production of the 2004–05 edition of the Australian Crime Commission's Illicit Drug Data Report.

In producing the report, the Australian Crime Commission has drawn on the expertise and experience of a broad range of law enforcement agencies and some non-government agencies.

The report serves to highlight the collaborative approach taken by government and non-government agencies to minimise the impact of illicit drugs in the Australian community.

While the primary role of the Illicit Drug Data Report is to present aggregated law enforcement data in arrests, seizures, purity levels, and illicit drug prices, the report also provides a brief guide to each drug type and includes an overview of the current situation, its national impact, and information on emerging trends.

I recommend the 2004–05 edition of the Illicit Drug Data Report to you and your organisation and look forward to your feedback.



A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Alastair Milroy'.

Alastair Milroy
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- Western Australia Forensic Science Laboratory; and
- Western Australia Police.

ABBREVIATIONS

1,4-B	1,4-Butanediol
4-MTA	4-methylthioamphetamine
AAS	Anabolic and Androgenic Steroids
ACC	Australian Crime Commission
ACT	Australian Capital Territory
ADF	Australian Drug Foundation
ADHD	Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
AFP	Australian Federal Police
AIHW	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
ASDA	Australian Sports Drug Agency
ATS	Amphetamine-type stimulants
CENs	Cannabis Expiation Notices
CINs	Cannabis Infringement Notices
DHEA	Dehydroepiandrosterone
DINs	Drug Infringement Notices
DOB	4-bromo-2,5-dimethoxyphenethylamine

DOM	2,5-dimethoxy-4-methylamphetamine
EPO	Erythropoietin
GBL	Gamma butyrolactone
GHB	Gamma-hydroxybutyrate
HGH	Human Growth Hormone
IDRS	Illicit Drug Reporting System
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-methylenedioxymethamphetamine
MDP2P	3,4-methylenedioxyphenyl-2-propanone
NCDC	National Chemical Diversion Congress
NDARC	National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre
NDIC	National Drug Intelligence Center (US)
NDLERF	National Drug Law Enforcement Research Fund
NIDA	National Institute on Drug Abuse
NIDRF	National Illicit Drug Reporting Format
NSW	New South Wales
NT	Northern Territory
P2P	Phenyl-2-propanone
PHMA	Peptide Hormone Mimetics and Analogues
PMA	Paramethoxyamphetamine
PMK	Piperonylmethylketone
Qld	Queensland
SA	South Australia
SCONs	Simple Cannabis Offence Notices
Tas	Tasmania
THC	Delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
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 (Customs) and the state and territory drug analytical laboratories. The illicit drug data collected and presented in this report for the 2004–05 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

Amphetamines

- There is an increasing trend in the use, including smoking, of crystal methylamphetamine ('ice') among young recreational drug users.
- Australian amphetamine-type stimulant (ATS) supply is dominated by domestic clandestine production, primarily methylamphetamine manufacture; however, the increasing demand for high purity crystal methylamphetamine ('ice') may create an increase in attempted importations as well as in domestic clandestine production.
- Clandestine laboratory production will continue to be associated with high levels of harm as a consequence of the production techniques and chemicals utilised.

Phenethylamines

- The majority of the world's MDMA (ecstasy) continues to be produced in Western Europe.
- Recent seizures of precursor chemicals, the detection of clandestine laboratories and the distribution of tablet presses into the illicit market indicates that locally produced MDMA is available in Australia.
- Tablets sold as 'ecstasy' may include a variety of drugs mixed with MDMA, or may contain no MDMA at all.

Cannabis

- The majority of cannabis consumed in Australia is domestically produced, with cultivation prolific in all states and territories, generally making imports of cannabis products not economically viable.
- Price continues to be influenced by the method of cultivation, with price differences existing between hydroponic and bush cannabis.
- The most commonly detected method of cannabis cultivation is hydroponics.

Heroin

- The total weight of heroin seized at the border for 2004–05 increased nearly threefold, however, this is much lower than figures recorded prior to 2002–03.
- A continuing decline in opium production in South East Asia creates the potential for traffickers to look to Afghanistan as a potential source of heroin in the future.
- Heroin purity continues to fluctuate between and within jurisdictions.

Cocaine

- The number of cocaine border detections in 2004–05 decreased, however, the weight of detections increased.
- Whilst there has been an overall decrease in the number of detections of cocaine at the Australian border, 'scatter' importations of cocaine in the postal stream continue to be the most frequently detected method of importation.
- The market for cocaine has remained relatively stable within Australia.

Other Drugs

- There has been a steady decrease in detections of anabolic agents and selected hormones at the Australian border.
- The use of anaesthetics such as ketamine and GHB (fantasy) is becoming more prevalent.
- Benzodiazepines and opiates are the main pharmaceuticals obtained for illicit use.