

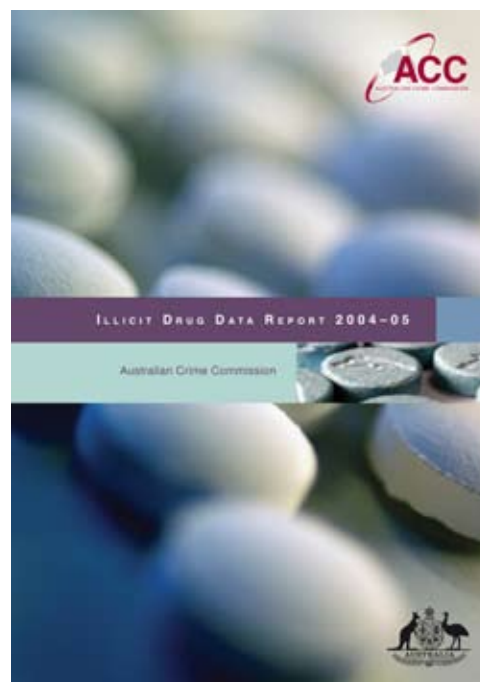
Australian Crime Commission

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ILLICIT DRUG DATA REPORT 2004-05 KEY FINDINGS

Introduction

- This is the third edition of the Illicit Drug Data Report. The report was previously known as the Australian Illicit Drug Report (AIDR).
- In 2004-05, more than 13.6 tonnes of illicit drugs were seized by Australian law enforcement in almost 54,000 seizures. This includes 6,922 kilos of cannabis, 2,276 kilos of amphetamine-type stimulants, 194 kilos of heroin and 191 kilos of cocaine,
- More than 77,300 people were arrested for drug offences in the 2004-05 financial year.



Amphetamine-Type Stimulants

- There is an increasing trend in the use of crystal methylamphetamine ('ice') among young recreational drug users.
- Australian amphetamine-type stimulant supply is dominated by domestic clandestine production, primarily methylamphetamine manufacture; however, the increasing demand for high purity crystal methylamphetamine 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, detections 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 which generally attracts higher prices.

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.

ENDS

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