



FOREWORD

We should always be aware of the real threat posed by illicit drugs to the Australian community. It is often not just the user, but their extended families and the broader community that bear the brunt of the damaging impact illicit drugs have on all of us. Illicit drugs fund organised crime and place unnecessary pressure on health, community and government services.

The 2007–08 edition of the Australian Crime Commission’s *Illicit Drug Data Report (IDDR)* will be a valuable tool in Australia’s fight against illicit drugs. As a public document, the *IDDR* continues to provide the broader community with an understanding of illicit drugs in Australia. It provides a statistical overview of illicit drugs and commentary on emerging trends for the 2007–08 reporting period. The report also incorporates international data, which provides a global context in which the report is set.

As outlined in this report, cocaine use in Australia increased in 2007–08, and cannabis use also remains high. The threat posed by these and other illicit drugs remains a serious concern and I hope that data contained in this report can further inform partner agencies and decision-makers across the full spectrum of the illicit drug response, in developing strategies to minimise or reduce harm and limit drug supply.

In compiling the *IDDR*, we draw on the combined resources, experience and expertise of Australia’s law enforcement community, forensic laboratories and Commonwealth agencies who provide significant contributions. I thank all agencies for their ongoing support and assistance. This report is recognised as an accurate and comprehensive description of Australia’s illicit drug environment and is evidence of our successful multi-agency working relationships.

New features in this edition of the *IDDR* include the re-introduction of an *Initiatives* chapter, outlining the Australian Government’s commitment to illicit drug initiatives. Further enhancements also include detailed arrest and purity charts, global production charts and additional clandestine laboratory data.

I present the 2007–08 edition of the *IDDR* and applaud the continued efforts in tackling the scourge of illicit drugs.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Lawler', written over a horizontal line.

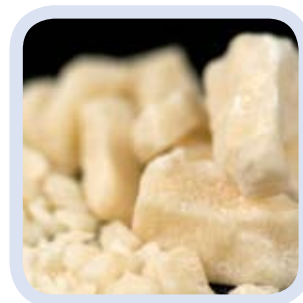
John Lawler APM
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The *Illicit Drug Data Report (IDDR) 2007–08* provides a snapshot of the national illicit drug market and is the only report of its type in Australia. The report is an essential tool for governments, law enforcement agencies and interested stakeholders in providing information on illicit drug trends. It assists decision-makers in developing strategies to combat illicit drug supply and minimise associated harm.

The 2007–08 report provides information on a number of trends associated with illicit drugs in Australia. Key findings include:

- The Australian amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) market, excluding MDMA, appears to be predominantly supplied through domestic production. Large quantities of precursor chemicals used in ATS production continue to be detected at the Australian border. In 2007–08, the number of clandestine laboratory detections remained stable, with the majority of these detected in residential areas. The number of ATS arrests are currently the highest on record and seizures remain high.
- Cannabis remains the most commonly used illicit drug in Australia. Cannabis was the most seized drug in 2007–08 and also accounted for the majority of national drug arrests.
- Despite increases in global opium production, national seizures of heroin have declined over the last decade. Trends in heroin purity, arrests and seizures indicate a relatively stable heroin market in Australia.
- Cocaine use has increased in Australia, indicating a potential expansion of the market. The number of cocaine seizures in 2007–08 is the highest on record.
- The number of detections of anabolic agents and selected hormones, specifically steroids, at the Australian border is the highest on record. The number of ketamine border detections has continued to increase.



The IDDR also outlines some of the initiatives undertaken by the Australian Government to address the threat posed by illicit drugs. These include:

- mitigating an anticipated increase in the supply of precursor chemicals through strengthening regional partnerships
- developing a national framework to control specific chemicals and equipment
- improving information sharing across law enforcement agencies through tools such as the National Clandestine Laboratory Database
- improving the ability to address drug and chemical diversion through *Project STOP* and awareness raising forums for the pharmaceutical, chemical and science industries.



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Police and forensic data managers provided significant contribution towards improving this report's data quality. The ability to draw on their expertise and experience, along with their continued support, has been invaluable for the Australian Crime Commission.

Key contributors are listed below:

- Attorney-General's Department
- Australian Capital Territory Government Analytical Laboratory
- Australian Customs and Border Protection Service
- Australian Federal Police
- Australian Federal Police - ACT Policing
- Forensic Science South Australia
- Forensic Science Service Tasmania
- New South Wales Health - Mental Health and Drug and Alcohol Office
- New South Wales Police
- Northern Territory Police
- Queensland Health Scientific Services
- Queensland Police Service
- South Australia Police
- Tasmania Police
- Victoria Forensic Science Centre
- Victoria Police
- Western Australia Forensic Science Laboratory
- Western Australia Police

ABBREVIATIONS

AAS	Anabolic and Androgenic Steroids
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ACC	Australian Crime Commission
ACoG	Asian Collaborative Group on Local Precursor Control
ACT	Australian Capital Territory
AFP	Australian Federal Police
AIC	Australian Institute of Criminology
AIDIP	Australian Illicit Drug Intelligence Program
AIHW	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
ANCD	Australian National Council on Drugs
ASADA	Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority
ATS	Amphetamine-type stimulant
BINLEA	Bureau for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs
BZP	N-benzylpiperazine
Customs and Border Protection	Australian Customs and Border Protection Service
DASSA	Drugs and Alcohol Services South Australia
DCPC	Drugs and Crime Prevention Committee
DEA	Drug Enforcement Administration
DHEA	Dehydroepiandrosterone
DOB	4-bromo-2,5-dimethoxyphenethylamine
DOJ	Department of Justice
DOM	2,5-dimethoxy-4-methylamphetamine
DUMA	Drug Use Monitoring in Australia
EMCDDA	European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction
EUROPOL	European Law Enforcement Organisation
GBL	Gamma-butyrolactone
GHB	Gamma-hydroxybutyrate
HGH	Human Growth Hormone
IDDR	Illicit Drug Data Report
INCB	International Narcotics Control Board
INTERPOL	International Criminal Police Organisation
LSD	Lysergic acid diethylamide
MBDB	N-methyl-1-(1,3-benzodioxol-5-yl)-2-butanamine

ABBREVIATIONS CONTINUED

MCDS	Ministerial Council on Drug Strategy
MDA	3,4-methylenedioxyamphetamine
MDEA	3,4-methylenedioxy-N-ethylamphetamine
MDMA	3,4-methylenedioxymethylamphetamine
MSM	methylsulfonylmethane
4-MTA	4-methylthioamphetamine
NCLD	National Clandestine Laboratory Database
NDARC	National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre
NDIC	National Drug Intelligence Center
NIDA	National Institute on Drug Abuse
NIDRF	National Illicit Drug Reporting Format
NDRI	National Drug Research Institute
NDSHS	National Drug Strategy Household Survey
NSW	New South Wales
NT	Northern Territory
ONDCP	Office of National Drug Control Policy
P2P	Phenyl-2-propanone
PCP	Phencyclidine
PIEDs	Performance and image enhancing drugs
PJC	Parliamentary Joint Committee
PMA	Paramethoxyamphetamine
PMK	Piperonylmethylketone
RCMP	Royal Canadian Mounted Police
Qld	Queensland
SA	South Australia
SAR	Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China
SOCA	Serious Organised Crime Agency
SPPCF	South Pacific Precursor Control Forum
Tas	Tasmania
THC	Delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UK	United Kingdom
US	United States of America
Vic	Victoria
WA	Western Australia
WADA	World Anti-Doping Authority

INTRODUCTION

The *Illicit Drug Data Report (IDDR)* 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.

The Australian Crime Commission (ACC) collects data annually from all state and territory police services, the Australian Federal Police (AFP), the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service (Customs and Border Protection), and state and territory forensic laboratories. The illicit drug data collected and presented in this report for the 2007–08 financial year includes:

- arrests
- seizures
- purity levels
- prices.

The purpose of this report is to provide statistics and analysis to 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. It is important to note that analysis contained in this report is yearly and may differ from analyses conducted by individual jurisdictions.

The ACC continues to use the National Illicit Drug Reporting Format (NIDRF) to standardise the data received from each of the law enforcement agencies and other contributing organisations. This also assists in reducing errors.

The ACC has re-introduced an *Initiatives* chapter, outlining the Australian Government's commitment to international and national illicit drug initiatives. The Attorney-General's Department primarily contributed to this chapter as the central policy and coordinating element of the Attorney-General's portfolio. The ACC intends to provide more comprehensive coverage of Australian Government initiatives in future reports.

KEY POINTS

AMPHETAMINE-TYPE STIMULANTS (ATS)

- The weight of ATS (excluding MDMA) detections at the Australian border increased by 861 per cent in 2007–08.
- The weight of MDMA detections at the Australian border decreased from 5234 kilograms in 2006–07 to 213 kilograms in 2007–08. The significant reduction is largely due to a single record detection in 2006–07.
- While both the number and weight of national ATS (including MDMA) seizures decreased in 2007–08, they are among the highest on record.
- National ATS (including MDMA) arrests have increased steadily over the last decade and are currently the highest on record.
- In 2007–08, over 80 per cent of clandestine laboratories were detected in residential areas.

CANNABIS

- While the number of cannabis detections at the Australian border remained stable in 2007–08, the weight of detections increased by 17 per cent.
- Cannabis seeds continued to account for the greatest proportion of cannabis border detections. However, the largest single detection was of cannabis resin.
- Cannabis accounted for the greatest proportion of national illicit drug arrests and seizures.
- Although uncommon, three clandestine laboratories designed for extracting cannabis oil were detected in 2007–08.

HEROIN

- Opium production in South-West Asia has increased over the last decade. Information indicates the increasing prominence of South-West Asia as a source region for heroin seized in Australia.
- Despite heroin production in South-East Asia decreasing considerably over the last decade, it remained the primary embarkation point for heroin detections at the Australian border.
- The weight of heroin detections at the Australian border increased by 22 per cent in 2007–08.

- In 2007–08, the national heroin seizure weight decreased by 21 per cent, while the number of seizures remained stable.
- The number of heroin and other opioid arrests remained relatively stable and is considerably lower than those reported earlier in the decade.

COCAINE

- In 2007–08, the number of cocaine detections at the Australian border increased by 71 per cent.
- Over 80 per cent of the total weight of cocaine detected at the Australian border occurred in sea cargo shipments.
- The number of national cocaine seizures in 2007–08 is the highest on record.
- While cocaine arrests decreased in 2007–08, they remain at a high level.

OTHER DRUGS

- The number of anabolic agents and other selected hormones detected at the Australian border in 2007–08 is the highest on record.
- National steroid seizures decreased by 32 per cent in weight, while the number increased by 14 per cent.
- National tryptamine seizures increased in weight and number in 2007–08.
- The number of ketamine border detections has continued to increase since 2004–05.

INITIATIVES

- Australia continues to work with Asian and Pacific Island government agencies and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to strengthen regional partnerships.
- During 2007–08, the Australian Government continued to deliver a number of initiatives including the *National Precursor Strategy*.
- The implementation of the National Clandestine Laboratory Database in 2008 will significantly enhance law enforcement intelligence capabilities.
- Since its introduction, approximately 63 per cent of pharmacies nationwide have signed up to use *Project STOP*.