



ILLICIT DRUG DATA REPORT 2009–10



AUSTRALIAN CRIME COMMISSION

Correspondence should be addressed to:

Chief Executive Officer
Australian Crime Commission
PO Box 1936 Canberra City
ACT 2601

Telephone:

02 6243 6666 (from within Australia)
61 2 6243 6666 (international)

Facsimile:

02 6243 6687 (from within Australia)
61 2 6243 6687 (international)

Published June 2011

The data contained in this report is produced by the Australian Crime Commission (ACC) with the endorsement of the eight police commissioners in Australia and the ACC Board.

© Commonwealth of Australia 2011.

This work is copyright. Apart from any use as permitted under the Copyright Act 1968, no part may be reproduced by any process without written permission from the Chief Executive Officer, Australian Crime Commission.

ISSN 1327-9068

FOREWORD

Organised crime groups continue to make most of their money from the trade in illicit drugs and they see the Australian market as a lucrative one.

So to drive them out of the market, we too must have a solid understanding of how the drug economy operates—the variables of product, pricing, promotion and methods of distribution along with the effects of technology, competition and the social and cultural environment.

The *Illicit Drug Data Report (IDDR) 2009–10* serves as a market spotlight, illuminating the national picture of Australia's illicit drug environment.

The report is designed to provide policy makers, resource planners, academia and law enforcement officials with a focused discussion of key drug issues and developments facing Australia.

Identifying common elements, trends and streamlining the data collection process with the help of our state, territory and Commonwealth colleagues are practical ways in which organised crime's illicit drug activity can be better anticipated, investigated and prevented.

Commencing in 2008–09, we allocated a chapter in the IDDR specifically for clandestine illicit drug-making laboratories because of a growing trend in national detections. In 2009–10 694 clandestine laboratories were detected, this represents a 245 per cent increase from 2000–01.

With 71 per cent of these detected in residential areas, clandestine laboratories and their volatile and toxic chemical mix continue to be a potentially major hazard for innocent members of the community and for the environment.

Cannabis continues to be the predominant illicit drug seized in Australia in the last decade, with 44 736



seizures nationally in 2009–10. Cannabis accounted for 70 per cent of the total number and 76 per cent of the total weight of national illicit drug seizures in 2009–10.

In this report the number of national illicit drug arrests is the highest reported in the last decade with more than 85 000 people arrested for illicit drug offences. National arrests for cocaine are also the highest on record.

This report also highlights the increase in the number and variety of drug analogues in the market which can be frequently perceived by users, often wrongly, as less harmful than illicit drugs. The speed of the evolving analogue market presents unique challenges for decision makers and law enforcement agencies.

Vigilance will continue to be the key not only to successful law enforcement action on the ground, but to strengthening our knowledge of organised crime's involvement in the illicit drug market.

Now in its 8th edition, the *Illicit Drug Data Report* will continue to inform critical decision making, set priorities and allocate resources to enhance our national response to the trade in illicit drugs.

John Lawler APM
Chief Executive Officer
Australian Crime Commission

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Australian Crime Commission (ACC) *Illicit Drug Data Report 2009–10* provides a snapshot of the Australian illicit drug market. The report brings together illicit drug data from a variety of sources including law enforcement, health and academia. The *Illicit Drug Data Report* is the only report of its type in Australia and provides the important evidence base to assist decision-makers in the development of strategies to combat the threat posed by illicit drugs.

The Australian illicit drug market continues to be dominated by cannabis, accounting for over two-thirds of arrests and seizures in 2009–10. Other prominent drug types for arrests and seizures during this reporting period were amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) and ‘other and unknown’¹.

Illicit drug related arrests increased marginally in 2009–10 to 85 252, the highest number in the last decade. Drug types that recorded the most substantial increase in arrests over the last decade are cocaine and amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS), increasing by 91 per cent and 58 per cent respectively.

Over 7.8 tonnes of illicit drugs were seized nationally in 2009–10, representing a 41 per cent decrease compared with 2008–09. However, the 63 670 national illicit drug seizures in 2009–10 is the second highest reported in the last decade.

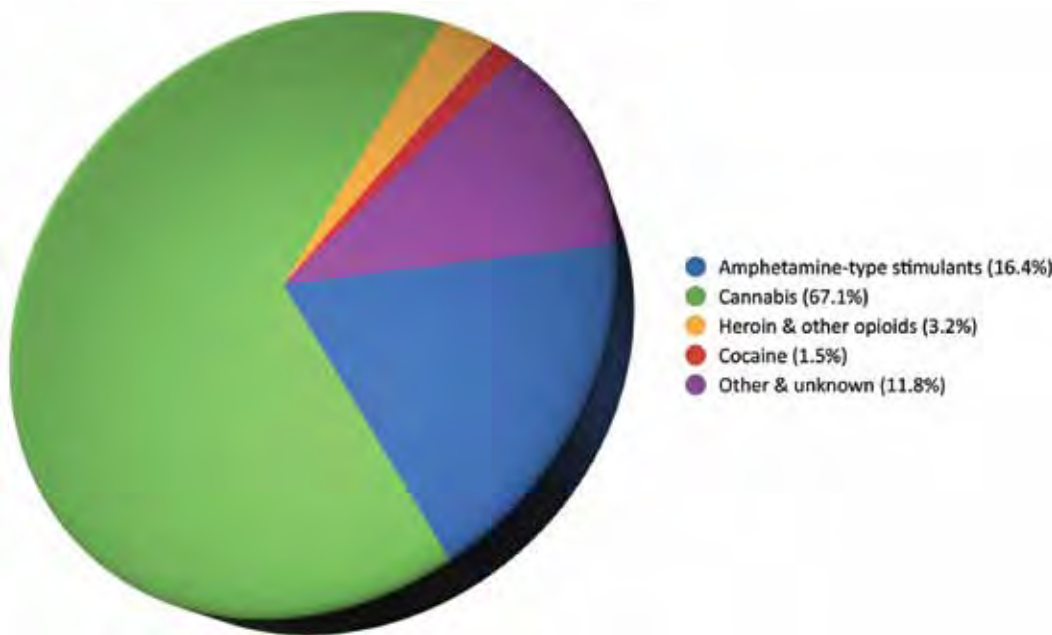
KEY FINDINGS FROM THE *ILLICIT DRUG DATA REPORT 2009–10*:

- National illicit drug arrests are the highest reported in the last decade.
- Cannabis remains the dominant illicit drug in Australia in terms of arrests, seizures and use.
- Cannabis was the only illicit drug type to report an increase in seizure weight in 2009–10, increasing by 8 per cent compared with 2008–09.
- ATS was the only drug type to report a decrease in the number of arrests compared with 2008–09, decreasing by 15 per cent.
- Despite increases in the number of cocaine seizures and arrests, the weight of seizures decreased by one-third compared with 2008–09.
- While profiling data indicates the continued prominence of Colombia as a source country for cocaine seized at the Australian border, results from the first 6 months of 2010 indicate an increase in the proportion of cocaine sourced from Peru.
- Profiling of heroin seizures at the Australian border indicate that South-West Asia accounted for the greatest proportion of bulk weight analysed, while South-East Asia accounted for the greatest number of analysed seizures.
- The number of national steroid seizures has continued to increase and is currently the highest on record.
- A record 694 clandestine laboratories were detected. However, the scale of activity at these laboratories is unclear.

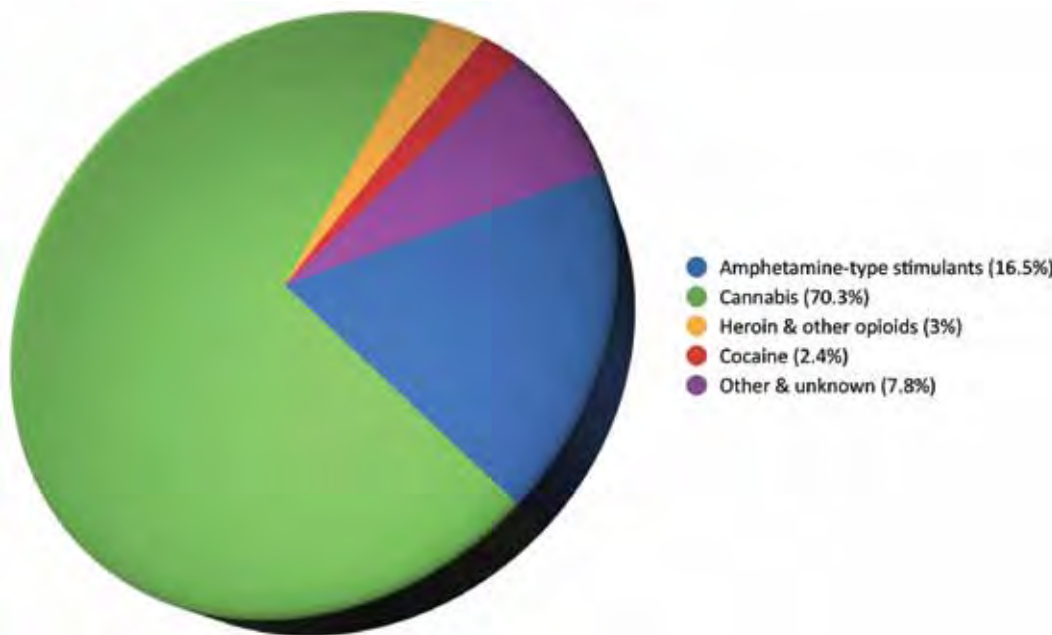
¹ ‘Other and unknown’ drugs include anabolic agents and other selected hormones, tryptamines, anaesthetics, pharmaceuticals and drugs not elsewhere classified.

The following charts provide an overview of the Australian illicit drug market in 2009–10

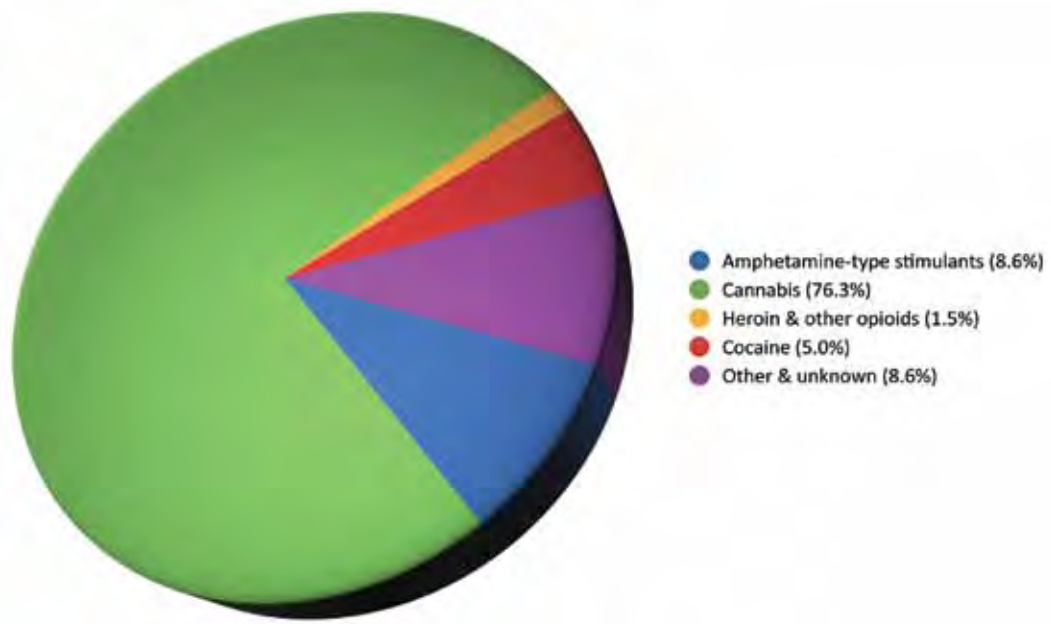
ARRESTS, 2009–10



SEIZURES BY NUMBER, 2009–10

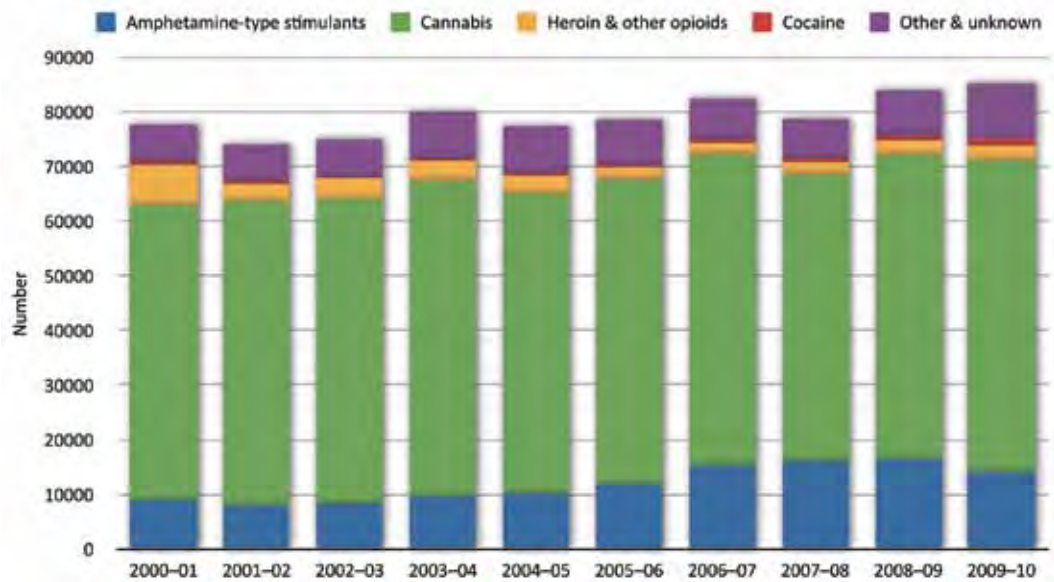


SEIZURES BY WEIGHT, 2009-10



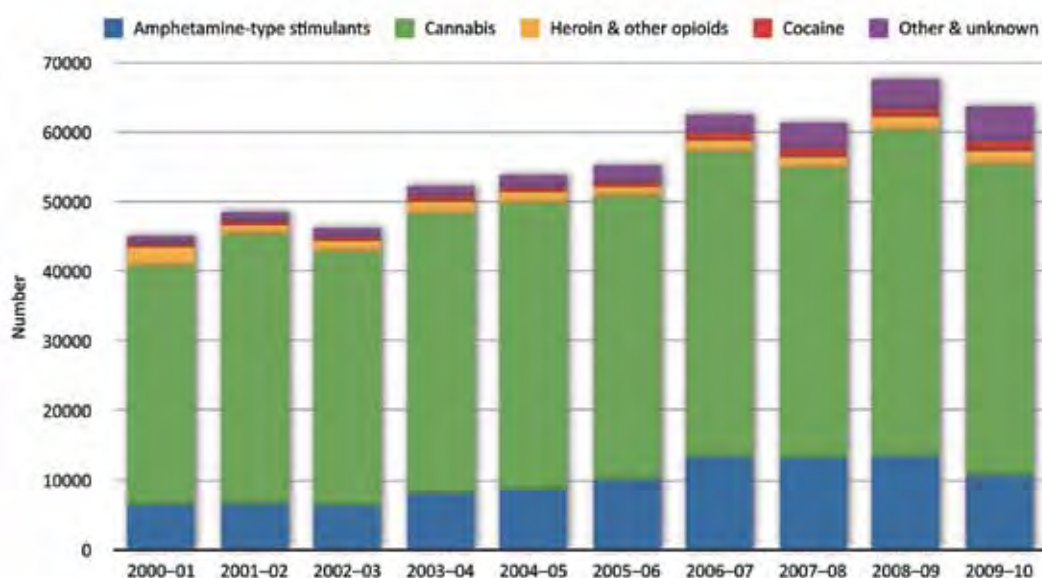
The following charts provide an overview of changes that have occurred in the illicit drug market in the last decade

NATIONAL ILLICIT DRUG ARRESTS , 2000-01 TO 2009-10



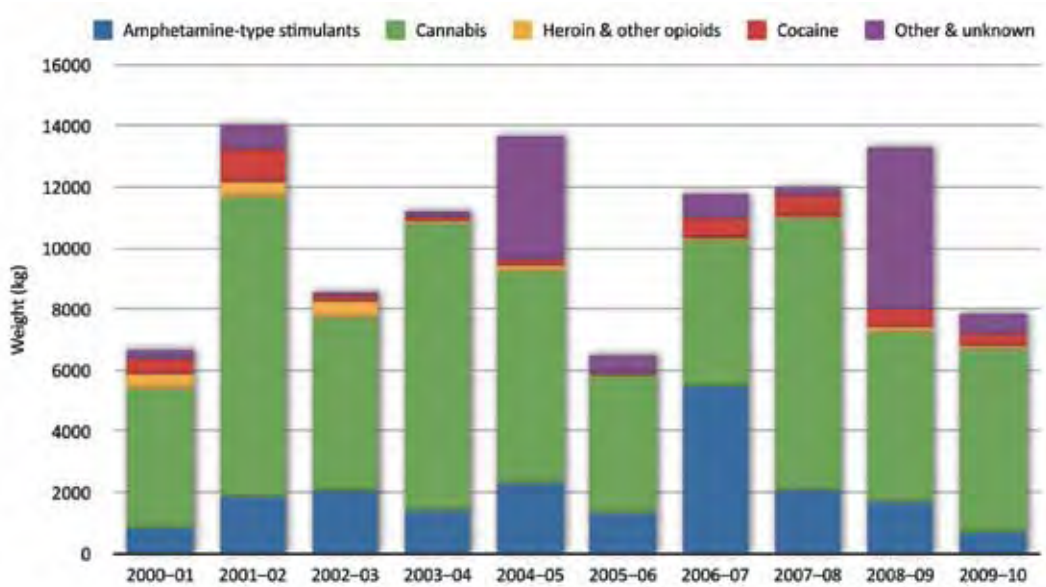
- The number of national illicit drug arrests is the highest in the last decade.
- This reporting period saw the first decrease in the number of ATS arrests since 2001–02.
- The number of cocaine arrests is the highest in the past decade.
- The number of ‘other and unknown’ arrests is the highest in the past decade.

NATIONAL ILLICIT DRUG SEIZURE NUMBERS, 2000–01 TO 2009–10



- The number of national illicit drug seizures in 2009–10 was the second highest in the last decade.
- Cannabis continues to account for over 70 per cent of the number of national illicit drug seizures.
- Over the last decade, national cocaine and ‘other and unknown’ illicit drug seizures have increased by 225 per cent and 331 per cent respectively.
- The number of national ATS seizures decreased in 2009–10 and is the lowest reported since 2005–06.

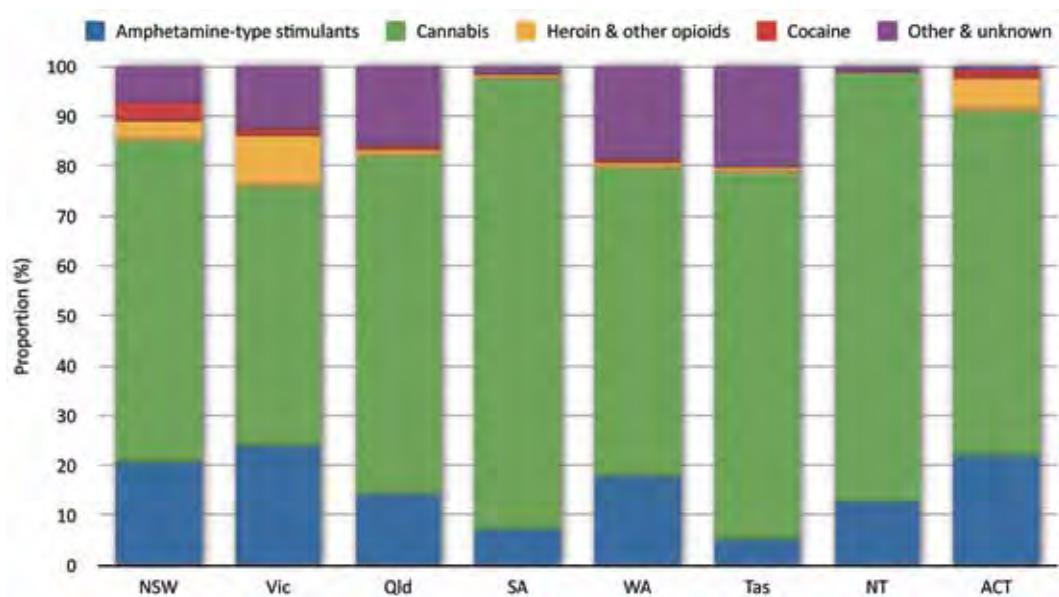
NATIONAL ILLICIT DRUG SEIZURE WEIGHTS, 2000-01 TO 2009-10



- The weight of national illicit drug seizures has fluctuated over the past decade. This is likely to reflect the effect of unusually large seizures.
- In 2009-10, the national seizure weight of ATS was the lowest reported in the last decade.
- The weight of 'other and unknown' illicit drug seizures decreased by 87 per cent in 2009-10 compared with the record high reported in 2008-09.

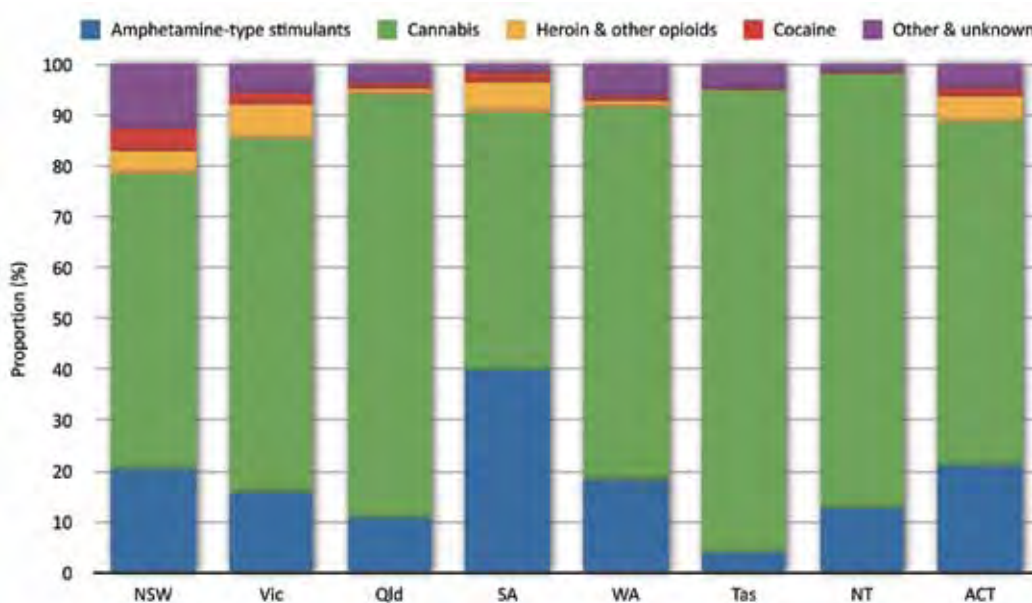
The following charts breakdown illicit drug arrests and seizures reported in 2009-10 by state and territory and drug type

ILLICIT DRUG ARRESTS BY STATE AND TERRITORY, 2009-10



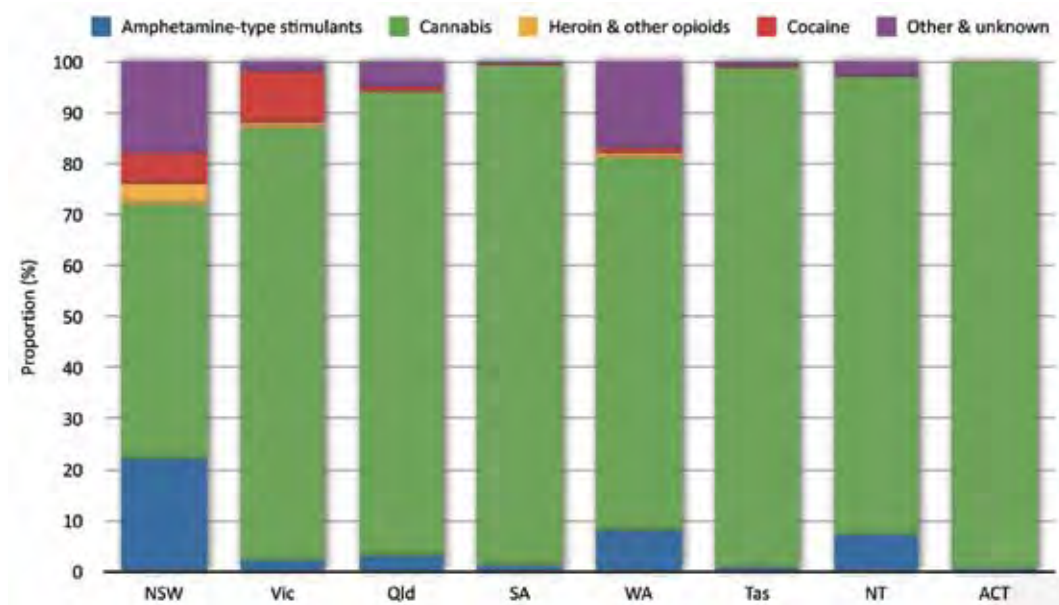
- Over half of illicit drug arrests in all states and territories were related to cannabis.
- Following cannabis, ATS accounted for the greatest proportion of arrests in New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory.
- In Queensland, Western Australia and Tasmania, ‘other and unknown’ arrests were second only to cannabis.
- In Victoria 10 per cent of all illicit drug arrests were related to heroin and other opioids, the highest proportion reported by any state or territory in 2009–10.
- In New South Wales 3.7 per cent of all illicit drug arrests were related to cocaine, the highest proportion reported by any state or territory in 2009–10.

ILLICIT DRUG SEIZURE NUMBERS BY STATE AND TERRITORY, 2009–10



- Cannabis accounted for the greatest proportion of illicit drug seizures across all states and territories.
- With the exception of Tasmania, all states and territories reported ATS as the second most seized drug.
- In South Australia 40 per cent of all illicit drug seizures were related to ATS, the highest proportion reported by any state or territory in 2009–10.

ILLICIT DRUG SEIZURE WEIGHTS BY STATE AND TERRITORY, 2009–10



- Cannabis continued to account for the greatest proportion of illicit drug seizure weight across all states and territories.
- Cannabis accounted for over 90 per cent of the weight of drugs seized in Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory.
- In New South Wales 22 per cent of all illicit drug seizures by weight were related to ATS, the highest proportion reported by any state or territory in 2009–10.
- In Victoria 10 per cent of all illicit drug seizures by weight were related to cocaine, the highest proportion reported by any state or territory in 2009–10.

CONTENTS

FOREWORD	1
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	2
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	12
ABBREVIATIONS	13
INTRODUCTION	15
KEY POINTS	16

AMPHETAMINE-TYPE STIMULANTS	18
KEY POINTS	18
MAIN FORMS	19
INTERNATIONAL TRENDS	21
DOMESTIC TRENDS	23
DOMESTIC MARKET INDICATORS	29
NATIONAL IMPACT	38
REFERENCES	38

CANNABIS	40
KEY POINTS	40
MAIN FORMS	41
INTERNATIONAL TRENDS	42
DOMESTIC TRENDS	43
DOMESTIC MARKET INDICATORS	46
NATIONAL IMPACT	49
REFERENCES	50

HEROIN	52
KEY POINTS	52
MAIN FORMS	53
INTERNATIONAL TRENDS	54
DOMESTIC TRENDS	55
DOMESTIC MARKET INDICATORS	60
NATIONAL IMPACT	65
REFERENCES	66

COCAINE	68
KEY POINTS	68
MAIN FORMS	69
INTERNATIONAL TRENDS	69
DOMESTIC TRENDS	71
DOMESTIC MARKET INDICATORS	76
NATIONAL IMPACT	81
REFERENCES	81

OTHER DRUGS	84
KEY POINTS	84
ANABOLIC AGENTS AND SELECTED HORMONES	86
TRYPTAMINES	92
ANAESTHETICS	96
PHARMACEUTICALS	100
NATIONAL IMPACT	104
REFERENCES	105

CLANDESTINE LABORATORIES AND PRECURSORS	108
KEY POINTS	108
MAIN FORMS	109
INTERNATIONAL TRENDS	110
DOMESTIC TRENDS	111
DOMESTIC MARKET INDICATORS	112
NATIONAL IMPACT	117
REFERENCES	117

STATISTICS	118
INTRODUCTION	119
COUNTING METHODOLOGY	119
DATA SOURCES	119
LIMITATIONS OF THE DATA	121
JURISDICTIONAL ISSUES	123
EXPLANATORY NOTES	125
SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATIONS	127
ARREST TABLES	128
SEIZURE TABLES	134
PURITY TABLES	136
PRICE TABLES	146

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This report contains data and analysis provided by federal, state and territory police, as well as forensic laboratories and the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service. 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 (ACC).

Key contributors:

- Australian Capital Territory Government Analytical Laboratory
- Australian Customs and Border Protection Service
- Australian Federal Police
- Australian Federal Police, Forensic and Data Centres
- Australian Federal Police, ACT Policing
- ChemCentre
- Forensic Science South Australia
- Forensic Science Service Tasmania
- New South Wales Health, Mental Health and Drug and Alcohol Office
- New South Wales Police Force
- Northern Territory Police
- Queensland Health Forensic and Scientific Services
- Queensland Police Service
- South Australia Police
- Tasmania Police
- Victoria Police
- Western Australia Police.

ABBREVIATIONS

AAS	Anabolic and Androgenic Steroids
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ACC	Australian Crime Commission
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
CISC	Criminal Intelligence Service Canada
COAG	Council of Australian Governments
Customs and Border Protection	Australian Customs and Border Protection Service
DCPC	Drugs and Crime Prevention Committee
DEA	Drug Enforcement Administration
DHEA	Dehydroepiandrosterone
DOB	4-bromo-2,5-dimethoxyphenethylamine
DoHA	Department of Health and Ageing
DOM	2,5-dimethoxy-4-methylamphetamine
DUMA	Drug Use Monitoring in Australia
EMCDDA	European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction
EU	European Union
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 Organization
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
MSM	methylsulfonylmethane
4-MTA	4-methylthioamphetamine
NCETA	National Centre on Education and Training on Addiction
NCPIC	National Cannabis Prevention and Information Centre
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
PMA	Paramethoxyamphetamine
PMK	Piperonylmethylketone
RCMP	Royal Canadian Mounted Police
Qld	Queensland
SA	South Australia
SOCA	Serious Organised Crime Agency
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
WHO	World Health Organization

INTRODUCTION

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 compiles 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 2009–10 financial year includes:

- arrests
- seizures
- purity levels
- profiling data (heroin and cocaine)
- 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 law enforcement agencies and other contributing organisations. This assists in reducing errors.

KEY POINTS

AMPHETAMINE-TYPE STIMULANTS (ATS)

- While the number of ATS (excluding MDMA) detections at the Australian border increased by 71 per cent in 2009–10, the weight of detections decreased by 84 per cent.
- The weight of MDMA detections at the Australian border decreased from 12.9 kilograms in 2008–09 to 6.5 kilograms in 2009–10.
- The weight of national ATS seizures decreased by 59 per cent in 2009–10.
- Although ATS arrests decreased in 2009–10, they account for one-sixth of national drug arrests, second only to cannabis.

CANNABIS

- While the weight of cannabis detections at the Australian border remains low, the number of detections is the highest recorded in the last decade.
- Cannabis seeds continue to account for the greatest proportion of cannabis border detections.
- Despite reported decreases in cannabis use, the weight of national cannabis seizures and number of arrests increased in 2009–10.

HEROIN

- The weight of heroin detections at the Australian border decreased from 150.6 kilograms in 2008–09 to 117.5 kilograms in 2009–10.
- Points of embarkation for heroin detected at the Australian border remained unchanged at 29 countries.
- In 2009–10, the weight of national heroin seizures decreased by 49 per cent.
- The number of national heroin and other opioid arrests remained relatively stable.

COCAINE

- The number of cocaine detections at the Australian border decreased from 359 in 2008–09 to 291 in 2009–10.
- A single sea cargo detection accounted for 62 per cent of the total weight of cocaine detected at the Australian border in 2009–10.
- Analysis of cocaine samples seized at the Australian border indicates a potential shift in the geographical origin of cocaine entering Australia.
- Despite the record number of national cocaine seizures in 2009–10, the weight of seizures decreased by 33 per cent.
- The number of national cocaine arrests has almost doubled over the last decade, increasing from 652 in 2000–01 to 1 244 in 2009–10.

OTHER DRUGS

- The number of steroid detections at the Australian border increased by 74 per cent in 2009–10 and is the highest recorded in the last decade.
- The number of national steroid seizures continued to increase and is currently the highest on record.
- The number of tryptamine detections at the Australian border is the highest recorded in the last decade.
- The weight of national tryptamine seizures increased from 1.5 kilograms in 2008–09 to 12 kilograms in 2009–10.
- The number of border detections of anaesthetics increased in 2009–10 and is the highest reported since 2001–02.

CLANDESTINE LABORATORIES AND PRECURSORS

- A record 694 clandestine laboratories were detected in Australia in 2009–10.
- The majority of clandestine laboratories continue to be detected in residential locations.
- The weight of pseudoephedrine and ephedrine detections at the Australian border decreased by 73 per cent from 2 041 kilograms in 2008–09 to 556 kilograms in 2009–10.
- The number of tablet presses seized nationally increased by 119 per cent, from 26 in 2008–09 to 57 in 2009–10.