

Drugs in the NT – A Snapshot

NT has highest rates of use for:

- ◆ Any illicit drug
- ◆ Alcohol – lifetime risk >2 standard drinks per day 27.5%
- ◆ Tobacco – daily 17.2%

Illicit drug use:

- ◆ Highest among males
- ◆ Decreasing since 2001
- ◆ High rates relate to cannabis use

- ◆ Tobacco use decreased from 40% in 1998 to 17% in 2016

- ◆ 45% injecting drug users score high/very high psychological distress on Kessler 10 scale

Cannabis

- ◆ Most commonly used illegal drug in NT
- ◆ Use has declined from 24.4 in 2001 to 16% in 2016 (biggest decrease of all S/Ts)
- ◆ Highest use in youngest (14-29) and oldest (60+) age groups
- ◆ Arrests:
 - ◆ 74% classed as users and 26% as dealers (nationally 91% classed as users)
 - ◆ 39% of users were charged rather than being given a drug infringement notice
- ◆ Easy or very easy to obtain

MDMA (Ecstasy)

- ◆ Higher rates in NT than national average
- ◆ NDSHS data suggests ecstasy is 2nd most used illegal drug in the NT after cannabis
- ◆ Wastewater analyses suggest it is 3rd most used drug after cannabis and methamphetamine
- ◆ Easy or very easy to obtain

Methamphetamine

- ◆ NT has the third lowest use in Australia (NDSHS 2016)
- ◆ More common in the NT than cocaine, ecstasy and opioids (Wastewater analyses)
- ◆ Used by 71% of NT injecting drug users in 2016
- ◆ Significant shift from powder/pills to crystal form
- ◆ Crystal form associated with higher risk of harm and more frequent use
- ◆ Easy or very easy to obtain

Cocaine

- ◆ Use has increased from 0.5% in 2010 to 2.5% in 2016
- ◆ Second highest rate in Australia after NSW
- ◆ NT has lowest rate of use in regional areas
- ◆ Use has increased for males but decreased for females
- ◆ Availability – variable reports

Injecting Drug Use

- ◆ Small group (<.1%) but injecting use associated with risk factors for blood borne viruses and highly addictive drugs
- ◆ Preferred drug of choice for injecting drug users
 - ◆ Morphine 38%; Methamphetamine 30%; Heroin 14%
- ◆ Drug injected most often in past month
 - ◆ Morphine 56%; Methamphetamine 32%; Heroin 1%
- ◆ Trends: heroin declining and methamphetamine increasing
- ◆ Easy or very easy to obtain (but heroin hardest to obtain)

Misuse of Pharmaceuticals

- ◆ 5.1% misused pharmaceuticals in 2016 – 3rd highest percentage of all Australian jurisdictions
- ◆ Misuse mainly occurs in relation to pain-killers/analgesics and opioids

Harms

Harm	Party goers	Injecting Drug Users
Life-time overdose	Stimulants 42%; Depressants 29%	Heroin 23%; Morphine 9%; Other 31%
Mental health problem	41%	27%
K10 Psychological distress	Moderate 33%; High/very high 31%	Moderate 22%; High/very high 45%
Help seeking	Health service 79%; AOD health service 18%	Treatment program 17%; health service 75%
Needle use	14% injected. No sharing of equipment in last month	Accessed via NSP 93%; needle sharing 7%; re-used own needles 25%
Driving – drugs & alcohol	Alcohol 52%; Drugs 71%	Of drivers: Alcohol 15%; Drugs 71%
Harmful Drinking	88%	35%
Arrested over last year	14%	20%
Crime committed last month	37% - mainly drug dealing (30%)	30% (50/50 drug dealing/property)