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**Title:**

**Differentials in illicit drug use in Australia**

**Author:**

Nicola Tatham

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Canberra

nicola.tatham@health.gov.au

**Abstract:**

Illicit drugs are a significant cause of death and illness in Australia, around 1,000 deaths and 15,000 hospitalisations occur each year because of the effects of illicit drugs.

The seventh National Drug Strategy Household Survey, conducted in 2001 and managed by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, was the most comprehensive survey concerning licit and illicit drug use ever undertaken in Australia. Almost 27,000 people aged 14 years and over participated in the survey, providing information on their drug use patterns, attitudes and behaviours.

Amongst other things, the survey found the use of illicit drugs appears to be more prevalent among males, among those aged 20–29 years, and among those living in the Northern Territory and Western Australia. Using data from the 2001 survey, the presentation will examine in detail differential patterns of illicit drug use in Australia.