



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (First Nations) people

Alcohol, tobacco and other drugs in Australia

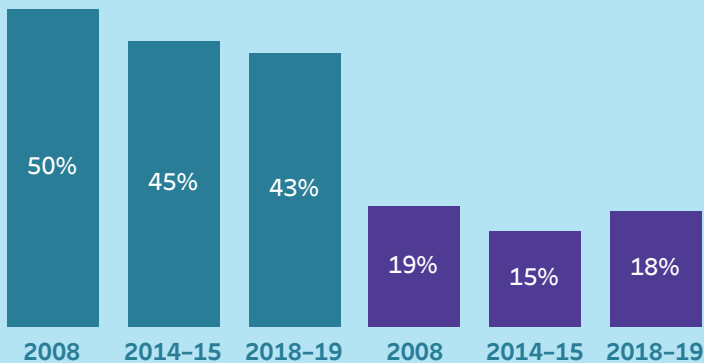
In 2018, tobacco use accounted for **11.9% of the burden of disease** for Indigenous Australians. [1]

Smoking rates for Indigenous Australians aged 18 and over:

- **Non-remote areas declined** from 55% in 1994 to 40% in 2018–19.
- **Remote areas rose slightly** from 54% in 1994 to 59% in 2018–19. [6,7]



Indigenous smoking and lifetime risky drinking: [5,7]



In the last 12 months in 2022–2023, **12%** of First Nations people **consumed 11 or more standard drinks** at least once a month and over **1 in 4** used any **illicit drug**:

- **17.0%** used **cannabis**
- **7.6%** used a **pharmaceutical for non-medical use**
- **2.7%*** used methamphetamine and **amphetamine**. [2]

In 2022–23, **18%** of clients of **alcohol and other drug treatment services** aged 10 and over were First Nations people. [3]

In 2014–15, of Indigenous Australians with a **mental health condition**:

- Almost **1 in 2** were **daily smokers**
- About **2 in 5** have **used substances**. [5]



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First Nations people aged 14 and over were **slightly more likely to abstain** from **drinking alcohol** in 2022–2023 (28%) compared to 2010 (25%).^[2]

42% of First Nations mothers **reported smoking** at some time during **pregnancy** in 2021, down from 50% in 2011.^[4]



National Drug Strategy Household Survey findings relate to people aged 14 or older unless specified. An adult is a person aged 18 or older. ^[2]

References

1. AIHW (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare) (2021) Australian Burden of Disease Study: Impact and causes of illness and death in Australia 2018, AIHW, Australian Government. doi:10.25816/5ps1-j259
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3. AIHW 2024. Alcohol and other drug treatment services in Australia: early insights. AIHW, Australian Government. accessed 16 April 2024.
4. AIHW 2023. Australia's mothers and babies, AIHW, Australian Government, accessed 29 June 2023.
5. ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics) 2016. National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, 2014–15. ABS cat. no. 4714.0. Canberra: ABS. Viewed 14 December 2017.
6. ABS 2017. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples: Smoking Trends, Australia, 1994 to 2014–15. ABS cat. no. 4737.0. Canberra: ABS. Viewed 25 October 2017.
7. ABS 2019. National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey, 2018-19. ABS cat. no. 4715.0. Canberra: ABS. Viewed 8 January 2020.

Source: Alcohol, tobacco and other drugs in Australia
(<https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/alcohol/alcohol-tobacco-other-drugs-australia>).

