



*Australian  
secondary  
students' use  
of over-the-  
counter and  
illicit  
substances in  
1999*

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No.46**

*National  
Drug Strategy*

*Australian secondary students' use of over-the-counter and illicit substances in 1999*

# **Australian secondary students' use of over-the-counter and illicit substances in 1999**

Report

Report prepared for:  
**National Drug Strategy Unit**  
**Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care**

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# Executive summary

## Background

This report describes the results of the second national survey on the use of over-the-counter and illicit substances by secondary students.

The survey was conducted in 1999 and involved the collaboration of State and Territory Health Departments, cancer organisations and, in Queensland, the Education Department.

In each State and Territory, a representative sample of secondary schools (including government, Catholic and independent) was selected for surveying and from each school up to 80 students were surveyed. A total of 399 secondary schools participated in the study.

This report is based on data collected from 25,486 students aged 12-17 years.

## Analgesics

Analgesics were the most commonly used substance (licit or illicit) among secondary students. By the age of 12 over 95% of students had used analgesics in their lifetime.

Over two-thirds of secondary students had used analgesics in the four weeks prior to the survey and this included 42% of students who had used analgesics in the week prior to the survey.

More girls than boys were regular users of analgesics, with around 50% of girls 15 years and over having used analgesics in the week prior to the survey compared with around 36% of boys.

While the lifetime use of analgesics had decreased slightly between 1996 and 1999, there had been no change in the proportion of students using analgesics in the week prior to the survey during this time period.

## Tranquillisers

Use of tranquillisers other than for medical reasons among students was low, with 82% of students never having used tranquillisers.

Between 4% and 5% of students aged 13 and above had used tranquillisers in the month prior to the survey, and around 2% had used them in the week before the survey.

Fewer students aged between 12 and 15 years had used a sedative other than for medical reasons in their lifetime or in the previous month in 1999 than in 1996.

## Cannabis

Cannabis was the most commonly used illicit substance among secondary students, with 29% of all secondary students aged between 12 and 17 years reporting the use of cannabis at some time in their life.

Cannabis use increased with age from 9% of 12-year-olds who had ever used cannabis to 50% of 17-year-olds.

Around 14% of all students had used cannabis in the month prior to the survey, while 8% had used it within the week before the survey. Weekly use increased with age from 2% of 12-year-olds to 12% of 17-year-olds. Weekly use of cannabis was more common among boys than girls

The proportion of students using cannabis had decreased between 1996 and 1999. The decrease was seen among younger and older students, and was found for lifetime use, use in the month and use in the week prior to the survey. The decrease was also found among both male and female students.

## Inhalants

Reported use of inhalants was more common among younger students than older students. While 26% of all students had ever used inhalants, ever use decreased from 33% of 12-year-olds to 16% of 17-year-olds.

Recent use of inhalants also decreased with age, so that while 10% of 12-year-olds had used inhalants in the week prior to the survey, only 2% of 17-year-olds had used these substances recently.

There was no change in the proportion of students reporting to have used inhalants in their lifetime or in the month prior to the survey between 1996 and 1999.

## Hallucinogens

Seven per cent of all secondary students had had some experience with hallucinogens.

Ever use increased with age, rising from 2% of 12-year-olds to 12% of 17-year-olds.

Around 3% of students aged 16-17 years had used hallucinogens in the month prior to the survey. Around 1% had used hallucinogens in the week prior to the survey.

The proportion of students ever having used hallucinogens and using them in the month prior to the survey had decreased between 1996 and 1999. This decrease was found among 12-15-year-olds and 16-17-year-olds.

## Amphetamines

The vast majority (93%) of secondary students had never used amphetamines. By the age of 17, nearly 12% of students reported having had some experience with amphetamines.

Around 3% of students 14 years and over reported using amphetamines in the month before the survey.

Between 1996 and 1999, use of amphetamines among secondary students aged 12-15 and 16-17 had increased.

## Steroids

Use of steroids without a doctor's prescription was very uncommon, with around 3% of all students having ever used these substances.

No more than 1% of students in any age group had used steroids without a doctor's prescription in the month before the survey.



While among 12-15-year-olds the proportions indicating they had used steroids in their lifetime had increased between 1996 and 1999, the proportion indicating they had used steroids recently had decreased. There was no change in the proportion of 16-17-year-olds who had used steroids.

## Opiates

A small proportion of students (4%) had ever used opiates such as heroin or morphine.

Only 1% of students reported having used opiates in the month prior to the survey.

There was no change in the proportion of 12-15-year-olds reporting to have used opiates between 1996 and 1999. While slightly more 16-17-year-olds indicated they had used opiates at some time in their life in 1999 than 1996, this increase was not significant.

## Cocaine

Use of cocaine was rare among students. Only 4% of all students reported having ever used cocaine.

Only 1% of students had used cocaine in the month prior to the survey.

There was no change in the proportion of students reporting to have used cocaine between 1996 and 1999.

## Ecstasy

Only 4% of students had ever used ecstasy

Recent use of ecstasy was not common among any age group. Over 2% of students aged 16-17 had used ecstasy in the month prior to the survey.

While there had been no change in the proportion of 12-15-year-olds reporting to have used ecstasy in their life or in the last week between 1996 and 1999, the proportion of 16-17-year-olds using ecstasy recently had increased. More 16-17-year-old students had used ecstasy in the previous four weeks in 1999 than in 1996.

# 1. Background

In 1997 over 22,000 deaths and more than one quarter of a million hospital episodes were attributable to substance use and abuse.<sup>1</sup> While the use of illicit substances accounted for only 4% of these deaths and hospital episodes, the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) has estimated that the direct cost to the health system of managing disorders associated with the use and abuse of illicit substances in 1993-94 was \$274 million.<sup>1</sup> If the legal and judicial costs associated with the control of illicit substances were included in these figures, the costs associated with the use of illicit substances in Australia would be much greater.

Preventing the use of both licit and illicit substances among adolescents has been identified as one way of reducing substance use among adults and thereby reducing the human and financial costs associated with substance use. Young people are therefore one of the major target groups for policies and programs aimed at reducing the use of substances such as alcohol, cannabis and other drugs.

Having accurate information on the prevalence of the use of various substances is essential in planning and implementing appropriate interventions and campaigns. This information not only helps to identify the substances that need targeting but also identifies the groups of young people these campaigns and interventions need to reach if they are to be effective. In 1996, the first national survey on the use of illicit substances by adolescents was conducted on a representative sample of over 30,000 secondary students.<sup>2</sup> This 1996 survey showed that while the majority of students aged between 12 and 17 years had not used any illegal substance, 39% had used an illicit substance. Similar to the findings from studies on the use of substances among adults, cannabis was the most widely used illicit substance among secondary students, with over half of the 16-17-year-olds having tried this substance. In 1996, hallucinogens and amphetamines were the next most widely used illicit substances among adolescents, with most of this use being experimental (only 3% of students over 15 using either of these substances in the previous month).

Since 1996, a number of different programs and campaigns to reduce the use of illicit substances such as cannabis and heroin among adolescents have been conducted at both a state and national level. For instance at a national level, the National Illicit Drug Strategy included programs aimed at adolescents, while at a state level, initiatives such as Turning the Tide in Victoria included secondary school programs and initiatives.

Results from the 1998 National Drug Strategy household survey<sup>1</sup> suggest that while between 1995 and 1998 there had been little change in the use of illicit substances among boys aged 14-19 years, there had been an increase in the proportion of girls in this age group using illicit substances. While this was mainly due to an increase in the proportion of girls in this age group using cannabis, there was also a suggestion that the use of other substances such as heroin had increased among girls. Due to the relatively small number of 14-19-year-olds in this survey, these trends need to be confirmed in other larger studies.

The second national survey on the use of over-the-counter and illicit substances among secondary students was conducted in 1999. The substances covered in this survey were analgesics, sedatives, cannabis, amphetamines, cocaine, narcotics, steroids, inhalants, ecstasy and hallucinogens.

In both the 1999 and 1996 surveys, over 25,000 students were surveyed from across the three main education sectors (government, Catholic and independent). The large sample size used in both studies enables the 1996 and 1999 prevalence rates for the different substances to be compared. Although not designed as an evaluation of the effectiveness of any campaigns or interventions that have occurred since 1996, these comparisons can provide important information about changes in adolescent substance use.

This report describes the prevalence of the use of over-the-counter and illicit substances among Australian secondary students in 1999. Changes in the proportion of students using each of these substances between 1996 and 1999 are also examined. As with the 1996 study, this survey was part of the triennial survey series of secondary students' use of alcohol and tobacco, which began in 1984 and involved the collaboration of State cancer councils, State Health Departments and the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care.<sup>3,4,5,6,7</sup>

## 2. Method

### 2.1 Sample selection

The target population was all students in Years 7 to 12 across Australia. Population estimates were based on the most up-to-date figures available from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) at the time. Schools with enrolments of less than 100 students were excluded for reasons discussed below.

The sampling frame for the selection of schools was based on data from the 1998 ABS School Census. Within each State and Territory schools were sampled using a random sampling methodology designed to represent students from the three main education sectors: government, Catholic, independent. The basic design was a stratified two-stage probability sample, with schools selected at the first stage of sampling and students selected within schools at the second stage of sampling. The schools were stratified by the three education sectors: government, Catholic and independent and randomly selected from each sector. Two samples of schools were drawn to reflect the changes in the compositions of schools that began in the late 1980s, that is, the distinction between junior secondary (up to Year 10) and senior secondary (Years 11 and 12) campuses. Separate samples of schools were drawn for the lower secondary sample (Years 7-10) and upper secondary sample (Years 11-12).

Schools with fewer than 100 students enrolled were excluded from the study population as it would not have been possible to achieve a random sample of 80 students without including intact classes. Surveying students within intact classes was outside the study protocol.

Of the 429 secondary schools selected to participate in the survey, 149 refused, giving a response rate of 65%. From a sample of replacement schools drawn at the same time as the original sample, 119 schools agreed to take part in the study. Thus a total of 399 secondary schools (93% of the desired number) participated in the study.

The sampling procedure was identical to that of the previous national study on student's use of tobacco, alcohol and illicit substances conducted in 1996.

Due to administrative complications in NSW, students in Year 12 were not surveyed and 30% of schools in this State participated in the survey early in the 2000 school year (February and March). As a consequence of this procedural variation, NSW students participating in the 1999 study were slightly younger than the NSW students participating in the 1996 survey. The impact of this procedural variation was examined by comparing prevalence estimates obtained from students surveyed in 1999 with those surveyed in 2000. While the prevalence estimates for use of the various illicit substances tended to be lower among those students surveyed in 2000 than those surveyed in 1999, significant differences were mainly found among 12-13-year-olds. To adjust for the over sampling of younger students in NSW, data from NSW were weighted to bring the 1999 achieved sample into line with the age distribution of NSW students participating in the 1996 survey. The data presented here were based on these weighted data.

## 2.2 Procedure

Once schools were selected, principals were contacted and their consent to participate in the survey was obtained. Refusals were replaced by the geographically nearest school within the education sector initially selected. Participating schools provided copies of the school roll for the relevant year levels. The aim was to survey 80 students from each participating school. To this end, a member of the research team randomly selected 20 students (and six replacements) from each of the four year-levels in each junior school participating; while for senior schools, 40 students (and six replacements) were sampled from each of Years 11 and 12.

Following the protocol used in previous surveys, members of the research team administered the pencil and paper questionnaire to groups of up to 20 students on the school premises. If one of the students from the sample list of 80 was absent at the time of the survey, a student from the equivalent year level on the replacement list was surveyed. Students from different year levels were surveyed together. Students answered the questionnaire anonymously. The presence of teachers during the survey was discouraged but, because of individual school policy, 29% of students completed the questionnaire in the presence of teachers.

## 2.3 Questionnaire

In 1999, a 22-page core questionnaire was completed by the students (see Appendix 1). The core questionnaire covered the use of tobacco, alcohol, pain relievers, sleeping tablets and illicit substances such as cannabis and hallucinogens, and other substances. In some States students also completed a supplementary questionnaire which included further questions on tobacco and alcohol use, attitudes to use of various substances and other issues.

The substances included in the questionnaire represented a wide range of licit and illicit substances, including analgesics, tranquillisers, cannabis, amphetamines, inhalants and steroids. For each substance, the technical name was used in the question and was accompanied by explanations, examples and alternative terminology to clarify what substance was included in that category. As mentioned earlier, the substances were analgesics, sedatives, cannabis, steroids, inhalants, amphetamines, ecstasy, cocaine or crack, opiates and hallucinogens.

For each substance, students were asked to indicate the number of times, if ever, they had used or taken the substance in four time periods: the last week, the last four weeks, the last year, and their lifetime. Students could choose from seven response categories ranging from 'None' to '40 or more times'. The questions concerning the use of sedatives, steroids, amphetamines and opiates explicitly asked about the non-medical use of these substances.

Students who had used cannabis, amphetamines, ecstasy and hallucinogens in the last year were asked if they had used any other substance(s) on the same occasion as using these substances. Students indicated the substances they had used from a list that included alcohol, tobacco, analgesics, cannabis, amphetamines and hallucinogens. Students who had not used any other substances could indicate this response from the list.

## 2.4 Coding and editing of data

All questionnaires were coded and entered by the Centre for Behavioural Research in Cancer at the Anti-Cancer Council of Victoria. After data entry, the data were cleaned and prepared for data analysis. Students with a large amount of missing data or whose responses were wildly exaggerated were removed from the data set before analyses started.

During analysis, respondents were not included in the analysis for particular questions if they gave contradictory or multiple responses or did not answer the question. However, these respondents were included in the analysis of other questions if these had been validly completed.

Following procedures established for the 1996 data, data cleaning included examining for two types of inconsistent responses. First, inconsistencies in responses regarding use or non-use of a substance across time periods (lifetime, year, month and week) were examined. This cleaning procedure ensured maximum use of the data and operated on the principle that the subject's response about personal use in the most recent time period was accurate. If responses for other time periods were missing or inconsistent with the most recent response, responses for the subsequent time periods were coded '77' to indicate 'used in that time period but unsure how often'. For example, if subjects indicated they had used a substance in the last week, in the last month and in their lifetime but they had not used it in the last year or if the response to this question was missing, the response for the last year was recoded to '77'. This indicated that the subject had used the substance (using something in the last week and month necessitates that it was used in the last year) but how often the substance had been used was unknown. The impact of this set of changes on the data set was minimal, with around 3% of data changed to '77' for any substance type in any time period (lifetime, year, month and week). Data coded as '77' were included in analyses reporting prevalence of use within a time period. However, when frequency of use is reported, students giving a '77' response were excluded from the analyses.

The second set of cleaning focused on the frequency of substance use and involved examining inconsistencies in frequency of use across time periods. For example, if the responses for a student indicated cannabis had been used three to five times in the preceding week but only once or twice in the last month, the frequency of use across time periods would be inconsistent (as the number of times the substance was used in the last week should be included in the frequency of use in the last month). While we could not be certain exactly how often cannabis was used in the month before the survey we know that it was used at least three to five times (ie the frequency of use in the last week). Therefore it was decided to recode all inconsistent responses to indicate the amount we were certain the student had used. This procedure gives a conservative estimate of the number of times a student had used a substance within the various time periods. The impact of this recode on the frequency of responses for the 10 substances was minimal.

## 2.5 Data analyses

These analyses cover school students aged 12-17 years. To ensure that disproportionate sampling of any State, school type, age level and sex grouping did not bias the prevalence estimates, data were weighted to bring the achieved sample into line with the population distribution. The prevalence estimates reported in this report were based on these weighted data. Using 95% confidence intervals, the prevalence estimates reported here are within 2.3% or better of the true population values.

Logistic regression analyses were used to examine whether the proportion of students engaging in lifetime or monthly use of each substance in 1999 differed significantly from that found in the 1996 survey. For these analyses students were grouped into two age groups: 12-15-year-olds and 16-17-year-olds; and the proportions of all students, and male and female students using each substance in 1996 and 1999, were compared. In these analyses, the outcome variable was binary coded, with 1 indicating that the behaviour was

engaged in and 0 indicating the behaviour did not occur. Age (within each of the two age groups), school type (government, Catholic and independent) and, where appropriate, sex were entered into the analyses first. The 2-level categorical variable year was then entered, enabling a (2 value associated with the main effect of year to be estimated.

Because this study used a two-stage sampling procedure, the sample was less efficient than a simple random sample of the same size. As students within the sample were clustered by school, standard errors for prevalence estimates may have been underestimated. Procedures within the statistical package STATA accommodate complex sample designs within analytic procedures by adjusting for the clustering of observations. STATA was used for analyses comparing prevalence estimates across survey years and standard errors robust to potential non-independence within subjects obtained.

Seventeen per cent of students were absent from school on the school day preceding the survey. Students who reported being absent from school the day before the survey were more likely to have used substances in the last week or last month, and this was particularly so for students 15 years and over. This difference suggests that the estimates reported here are likely to be underestimates of the true prevalence of substance use among secondary students, and would have been higher if those absent on the day of the survey had been included.

Given the large sample size and in accordance with previous practice, only those results associated with a p value of  $<0.01$  were taken to be statistically significant.

## 2.6 Sample size

A total of 26,489 students in Year levels 7 to 12 were surveyed from schools in Australia during the school year. Table 1 presents the number of students in each sex and age group between 12 and 17 years answering questions on the use of illicit substances. A total of 25,486 students aged between 12 and 17 years of age across the country answered the questionnaire. Data from 1003 students outside this age range were excluded from the analysis as the numbers in each age and sex group were too small to ensure reliable estimates.

**Table 1: Number of students surveyed in 1999 in Australia by age and gender**

Gender	Age						
	12	13	14	15	16	17	12-17
Male	1708	2459	2351	2266	2263	1497	12544
Female	1785	2515	2572	2360	2260	1450	12942
Total	3493	4974	4923	4626	4523	2947	25486

## 2.7 Definitions of substances

The drug categories used in this report were identical to the categories used in the questionnaire and follow the descriptions and examples provided to students, as follows:

Amphetamines:	Amphetamines or speed, uppers, MDA, Ritalin, 'Dex', Dexamphetamine, ox blood other than for medical reasons.
Cocaine:	Cocaine or crack.
Ecstasy:	Ecstasy or XTC, E, MDMA, Ecce, X.
Hallucinogens:	LSD, 'acid', 'trips', Magic Mushrooms, Datura, Angel's Trumpet.
Inhalants:	Deliberately sniffed (inhaled) from spray cans or sniffed things like glue, paint, petrol or thinners in order to get high or for the way it makes you feel.
Cannabis:	Marijuana, grass, hash, cannabis, dope, weed, mull, pot or a joint.
Opiates:	Heroin, smack, horse, skag, or other opiates (narcotics) such as methadone, morphine or pethidine other than for medical reasons.
Analgesics:	Pain killers/analgesics such as 'Disprin', Panadol' or 'Aspro'.
Tranquillisers:	Sleeping tablets, tranquillisers or sedatives such as 'Rohies', 'Rohypnol', 'Barbs', 'Valium' or 'Serepax', for non-medical reasons.
Steroids:	Steroids, muscle or roids without a doctor's prescription to make you better at sport, to increase muscle size or to improve your general appearance.

## 2.8 Definitions of frequency of drug use

Students were asked how many times they had used a particular drug within specified time periods. For each substance we report the prevalence of use within the time periods asked about (last week, last month, last year and lifetime) for all students and males and females in each age group between 12 and 17 years old.

The categories of use reported are:

Never:	Those who had never used the substance.
Ever:	Those who indicated any use of the substance, either in their lifetime, the last month, or last week.
Year:	Those who had used the substance within the last year.
Month:	Those who had used the substance within the four weeks prior to completing the survey.
Week:	Those who had used the substance within the seven days prior to completing the survey.

These categories are not mutually exclusive but rather overlap so that a student who reported having used a substance in the last week was included in the estimates of use in all other time periods, that is in estimates for lifetime use, use in the last year and use in the last month.



While the prevalence estimates described above give an indication of how widespread the use of a substance was in 1999, it tells little about the regularity of such use. That is we cannot infer from the prevalence estimates the proportion of students who were monthly or regular users. For instance a student may have used hallucinogens for the first time in the month before the survey and therefore was included in the estimates of use in the last month. However, the student may not use the substance again or may not use it for another 12 months so it would be incorrect to describe this student as a regular or monthly user. To gain an idea of the frequency of substance use the number of times students reported using each substance in the year prior to the survey was examined. This measure gives an indication of involvement with the substance over a period of time.

## 3. Results

### 3.1 Analgesics

Table 2 illustrates the use of analgesics in all time periods by age and gender.

The reported use and experience of substances such as aspirin among secondary students was extremely high. Among the entire sample, only 3% of students had never used these medications. The proportions of students who had ever used pain relievers increased significantly with age from a very high 95% of 12-year-olds to 98% of those aged 15 and over. Over two thirds of all students had used analgesics in the last month. The proportion of students using analgesics in the week before the survey increased from 36% of 12-year-olds to a peak of 45% of 14-15-year-olds. The increase in the proportion of students using analgesics in the last week was more marked among females than males. While use in the last week among boys was fairly stable at around 37%, among girls analgesic use increased from 37% of 12-year-olds to 54% of 15-year-olds and 52% of 17-year-olds.

**Table 2: Analgesics: Percentage of students according to recency of analgesics use by age and gender**

Age		Never	Ever	Year	Month	Week
12	Total	4.6	95.4	91.5	64.5	35.6
	Male	5.6	94.4	90.3	61.0	33.9
	Female	3.6	96.4	92.7	68.2	37.2
13	Total	4.9	95.1	92.1	69.5	41.1
	Male	5.7	94.3	90.0	65.3	36.9
	Female	4.0	96.0	94.3	73.9	45.6
14	Total	3.7	96.3	93.9	73.7	44.6
	Male	5.3	94.7	91.8	68.9	41.7
	Female	2.2	97.8	96.0	78.5	46.8
15	Total	2.0	98.0	95.7	76.4	44.8
	Male	2.7	97.3	94.2	69.0	36.1
	Female	1.4	98.6	97.2	83.9	53.5
16	Total	2.3	97.7	95.4	76.0	43.1
	Male	3.2	96.8	93.2	68.7	38.0
	Female	1.5	98.5	97.6	83.0	48.1
17	Total	2.8	97.2	94.2	74.8	44.4
	Male	4.2	95.8	91.3	64.2	36.3
	Female	1.4	98.6	96.9	84.5	51.9
12-17	Total	3.5	96.5	93.7	72.2	42.0
	Male	4.5	95.5	91.8	66.2	37.2
	Female	2.4	97.6	95.7	78.2	46.8

A greater proportion of female students had ever used analgesics when compared with males and this difference was significant for all age groups.

In all age groups, girls were significantly more likely to have used analgesics in the past year. Use in the last month was significantly higher among girls than boys for all age groups. The difference in the proportion of males and females using analgesics in the week prior to the survey was greater among the older students, and was significant for all age groups except 12-year-olds.

Of the students who had used analgesics in the past year, 67% of girls and 48% of boys had used analgesics 10 or more times in the previous year. Only 13% of boys and 10% of girls had used analgesics once or twice in this time period and this was inversely related to age, decreasing from 18% among boys and 17% among girls aged 12 to 11% of boys aged 16 and 6% of girls aged 16-17.

Among male students who had used analgesics in the last week, 72% of boys had used them only once or twice, while another 18% had used them 3-5 times in the previous week. Among girls who had used analgesics in the last week, 49% had used them once or twice, 22% had used them 3-5 times and 13% had used them 6 or more times in the previous week.

The results indicate that the use of analgesics was extremely common among secondary students. Use in the past week increases with age so that use in this time period was higher among older students. While ever use of analgesics was similar among males and females, use in the last week was more likely among female than male students.

## 3.2 Tranquillisers

Table 3 illustrates the use of tranquillisers other than for medical reasons in all time periods by age and gender.

Nearly one-fifth of students (18%) had used tranquillisers other than for medical reasons at some point in their life. The proportions of students ever using tranquillisers differed slightly across age groups, increasing from 14% of 12-year-olds to 22% of 16-17-year-olds. Use in the last month was low and was highest among 16-17-year-old students at 5%. For all age groups, between 2% and 3% of secondary students had used tranquillisers in the week before the survey.

Eleven per cent of secondary students had used tranquillisers in the last year. The proportion of students using tranquillisers in the last year increased with age: it ranged from 8% of 12-year-old students to a peak prevalence of 14% among those aged 16.

While the use of tranquillisers was slightly higher among female students than male students, these differences were only significant for ever use among 12, 13 and 16-year-olds and use in the last year among 12-year-old and 16-year-old students. In general there was no consistent pattern in the differences between male and female use across the six age groups.

Of those students who had used tranquillisers in the previous year, around 50% of boys and girls had used them only once or twice, while a further 21% of boys and 26% of girls had used them 3-5 times. There was little variation across age groups in these proportions.

**Table 3: Tranquillisers: Percentage of students according to recency of use of tranquillisers other than for medical reasons by age and gender**

Age		Never	Ever	Year	Month	Week
12	Total	86.4	13.6	7.5	2.9	1.7
	Male	84.3	15.7	8.7	3.1	2.0
	Female	88.6	11.4	6.4	2.6	1.4
13	Total	84.3	15.7	9.3	4.0	2.4
	Male	82.4	17.6	10.0	4.2	2.5
	Female	86.2	13.8	8.5	3.9	2.3
14	Total	82.7	17.3	9.9	4.0	2.1
	Male	82.8	17.2	9.6	3.9	2.4
	Female	82.6	17.4	10.2	4.2	1.8
15	Total	79.5	20.5	12.1	4.4	2.2
	Male	79.3	20.7	11.8	4.2	2.4
	Female	79.7	20.3	12.4	4.6	2.0
16	Total	77.7	22.3	14.3	5.1	2.6
	Male	80.3	19.7	10.7	5.0	3.0
	Female	75.2	24.8	17.7	5.1	2.3
17	Total	77.8	22.2	13.0	4.6	2.3
	Male	77.9	22.1	12.2	5.0	2.7
	Female	77.7	22.3	13.8	4.2	1.9
12-17	Total	81.8	18.2	10.8	4.1	2.2
	Male	81.5	18.5	10.3	4.1	2.5
	Female	82.1	17.9	11.2	4.1	1.9

These results show that the level of tranquilliser use among secondary students was generally low, and that older students were more likely to have ever used tranquillisers than younger students. While there was a slight trend towards greater use of tranquillisers among girls, these differences were generally not significant, indicating that the prevalence of sedative use among male and female secondary students was similar.

### 3.3 Cannabis

Table 4 gives the proportion of students using cannabis in all time periods by age and gender.

Cannabis was the most commonly used illicit substance among secondary students, especially among those in the older age groups. Nearly 3 out of every 10 secondary students (29%) had used cannabis at some time in their lives. In all time periods, the proportion of students using cannabis increased with age; for example, levels of ever use increased significantly from 9% of students aged 12 years to 44% of 16-year-olds and 50% of 17-year-olds.

As time periods became more recent, fewer students reported having used cannabis. Use in the last year increased significantly across age groups, from 7% of students aged 12 to 40% of 17-year-old secondary students, while use in the last month increased from 4% of 12-year-olds to 20% of students aged 15 and over.

**Table 4 Cannabis: Percentage of students according to recency of cannabis use by age and gender**

Age		Never	Ever	Year	Month	Week
12	Total	90.9	9.1	7.1	3.7	2.2
	Male	88.9	11.1	8.7	5.1	3.5
	Female	92.9	7.1	5.5	2.3	1.0
13	Total	83.0	17.0	14.1	7.6	4.7
	Male	80.5	19.5	15.6	8.2	5.6
	Female	85.7	14.3	12.5	6.9	3.8
14	Total	72.3	27.7	24.1	14.7	9.5
	Male	70.2	29.8	25.5	16.4	11.1
	Female	74.4	25.6	22.7	12.9	7.7
15	Total	61.7	38.3	33.2	19.5	11.3
	Male	58.0	42.0	36.0	21.5	13.5
	Female	65.4	34.6	30.4	17.5	9.1
16	Total	56.2	43.8	37.2	19.7	11.7
	Male	52.7	47.3	39.8	22.4	14.8
	Female	59.5	40.5	34.6	17.1	8.8
17	Total	50.4	49.6	39.8	20.3	11.5
	Male	46.9	53.1	43.3	23.9	15.1
	Female	53.6	46.4	36.5	17.1	8.1
12-17	Total	70.7	29.3	24.6	13.7	8.2
	Male	68.1	31.9	26.6	15.4	10.1
	Female	73.3	26.7	22.7	11.9	6.3

About 60% of students who reported using cannabis in the past month reported using cannabis in the last week. Use in the last week increased with age from 2% of the youngest students to peak at 12% among students aged 16-17.

In all time periods more boys than girls had used cannabis and this was true for all age groups. The proportions of boys having ever used cannabis increased from 11% of 12-year-olds to 53% of 17-year-olds, while among girls use increased from 7% at age 12 to 46% at age 17.

Fewer students reported using cannabis in the last month than the past year. Except for 14-year-olds, boys were more likely than girls to report using cannabis in the last year. Boys were more likely than girls to report using cannabis in the past month except among 13-year-olds. Use of cannabis in the last week was more common among boys than girls and reached a peak prevalence of 15% among boys aged 16-17, while for girls prevalence peaked at 9% among 15-16-year-olds.

Among students who reported using cannabis in the previous year, 31% of boys and 34% of girls had used it only once or twice. The proportion using cannabis once or twice was inversely related to age, decreasing from 47% of boys aged 12, to 26% of 17-year-old boys and among girls from 52% of 12-year-olds to 33% of 17-year-olds. Thirty-nine per cent of boys and 32% of girls who had used cannabis in the previous year had used it on 10 or more occasions.

Among male students who had used cannabis in the previous week, 52% had used it once or twice in that week, around 21% said they had used it 3-5 times that week and around 24% said they had used it 6 or more times in the previous week. There was a non-significant trend among males who had used cannabis in the last week, for use to become more frequent with increasing age. Among girls who had used cannabis in the preceding week, 59% had used it once or twice, 23% had used it 3-5 times and 20% had used it 6 or more times in the past week. There was no association between age and frequency of cannabis use among female users.

These results suggest that in 1999 cannabis use was widespread among secondary students, particularly boys. Experience with the drug increased with age. However, there was no difference in the proportion of students aged 15 and over using cannabis in the last month or last week.

### 3.4 Inhalants

Table 5 illustrates the use of inhalants in all time periods by age and gender.

About one quarter (26%) of all students had deliberately sniffed inhalants at least once during their lives. While 19% had used inhalants at some time in the last year, 11% of students had done so within the last month. Use in the week preceding the survey was reported by 7% of all students.

Inhalant use was related to age; however, unlike the pattern seen for other substances, prevalence decreased significantly from the youngest to the oldest students. While one-third (33%) of 12-year-old students had ever used inhalants this proportion decreased to around 25% by the age of 15. The proportions of older students using inhalants decreased further to 18% of students aged 16 and 16% of those aged 17 years.

Among the 12-14-year-olds, 23-26% reported inhalant use in the past year. Use in the last year was lowest among the 17-year-olds at 8%. Use within the last week was highest among the younger students and decreased significantly with increasing age. For example, while around one-tenth of students aged 12 and 13 reported using inhalants during the week preceding the survey, only 2% of the 17-year-olds reported inhalant use in this time period. Use within the last month ranged from 16% of 12-year-olds to 3% of students aged 17 years.

There were few significant differences in the use of inhalants between male and female secondary students and there was no obvious pattern in the differences. While significantly more girls (26%) than boys (23%) aged 15 had ever used inhalants, among 17-year-olds, boys were more likely than girls to report using these substances (17% compared with 14% respectively). More 13-year-old girls than boys had used inhalants in the past year, month or week, while more 16-17-year-old boys than girls had used inhalants in the last month and week.

These results reveal an interesting pattern of reported inhalant use. While there were few gender differences in the use of these substances, there was a striking difference in the proportions of younger and older students reporting weekly use and ever use of inhalants. For example, 12-13-year-old students were more than five times likely than 17-year-olds to report use in the last week. Similarly, the youngest students were about twice as likely as 17-year-olds to report having ever used inhalants.

Around half of the students who had used inhalants in the previous year had used them on only one or two occasions (46% of boys and 50% of girls). A further 22% of boys and 24%

of girls indicated they had used inhalants 3-5 times in the previous year. Eighteen per cent of boys and 14% of girls reported using inhalants 10 or more times in the previous year. Again this pattern of frequent use was inversely related to age with younger students reporting more frequent use than older students.

**Table 5: Inhalants: Percentage of students according to recency of inhalant use by age and gender**

Age		Never	Ever	Year	Month	Week
12	Total	67.0	33.0	25.5	15.7	9.9
	Male	67.7	32.3	24.3	15.2	10.0
	Female	66.3	33.7	26.8	16.3	9.7
13	Total	69.5	30.5	24.1	16.0	10.0
	Male	70.3	29.7	22.5	14.5	8.8
	Female	68.5	31.5	25.8	17.6	11.3
14	Total	70.7	29.3	22.7	12.5	7.7
	Male	71.7	28.3	22.0	12.7	8.6
	Female	69.7	30.3	23.5	12.4	6.9
15	Total	75.4	24.6	17.1	8.2	4.4
	Male	77.0	23.0	16.4	8.8	4.8
	Female	73.8	26.2	17.9	7.7	4.1
16	Total	82.1	17.9	11.9	5.6	2.9
	Male	81.2	18.8	12.5	6.9	3.6
	Female	83.0	17.0	11.4	4.5	2.3
17	Total	84.2	15.8	8.1	2.8	1.6
	Male	82.8	17.2	9.1	3.2	2.2
	Female	85.6	14.4	7.2	2.4	1.1
12-17	Total	73.9	26.1	19.2	10.8	6.5
	Male	74.3	25.7	18.7	10.9	6.8
	Female	73.6	26.4	19.7	10.8	6.3

The pattern of inhalant use described above shows that use decreases with increasing age so that 12-year-olds were more likely to report using inhalants than 17-year-olds. This pattern contrasts with that found for other substances where use becomes more likely with increasing age.

### 3.5 Hallucinogens

Table 6 illustrates the use of hallucinogens such as LSD in all time periods by age and gender.

The use of hallucinogens such as LSD among adolescents at school increased with age. While less than one-tenth (7%) of all secondary students had ever used hallucinogens, the proportions increased significantly with age, from 2% of 12-year-old students to 12% of 17-year-olds. Only 5% of all students reported having used hallucinogens at some time in the past year. Use in the past year increased from 1% of 12-year-olds to 9% of 17-year-olds.

Use of hallucinogens in the past month was very low, ranging from 1-2% for 12-15-year-old students to around 3% of 16-17-year-olds. Among these older students, around one third of

those who had used hallucinogens in the past year had used them in the previous month. The proportion of students using hallucinogens in the last week was about half the proportion reporting use in the past month. This pattern of results suggests that most students who use hallucinogens do not use them regularly.

**Table 6: Hallucinogens: Percentage of students according to recency of hallucinogen use by age and gender**

Age		Never	Ever	Year	Month	Week
12	Total	97.9	2.1	1.3	0.8	0.5
	Male	97.5	2.5	1.8	1.2	0.8
	Female	98.2	1.8	0.9	0.5	0.3
13	Total	96.6	3.4	2.4	1.3	0.9
	Male	96.4	3.6	2.3	1.4	0.9
	Female	96.8	3.2	2.5	1.2	0.8
14	Total	93.2	6.8	5.1	2.2	1.4
	Male	92.8	7.2	5.2	2.7	1.8
	Female	93.6	6.4	5.0	1.7	1.0
15	Total	91.9	8.1	5.7	2.2	0.9
	Male	91.9	8.1	5.9	2.5	1.3
	Female	91.8	8.2	5.6	1.8	0.5
16	Total	89.8	10.2	7.7	2.8	1.6
	Male	88.4	11.6	8.9	4.1	2.5
	Female	91.0	9.0	6.6	1.6	0.7
17	Total	88.0	12.0	8.7	2.5	1.1
	Male	85.2	14.8	11.2	3.7	1.8
	Female	90.6	9.4	6.4	1.3	0.4
12-17	Total	93.3	6.7	4.9	1.9	1.1
	Male	92.7	7.3	5.4	2.5	1.5
	Female	93.9	6.1	4.3	1.3	0.6

An examination of the pattern of gender differences for hallucinogen use showed that generally more males than females had used these substances. However, these differences were only significant among 16-17-year-olds. Compared with girls, 16-17-year-old boys were more likely to have used hallucinogens in their lifetime, in the last year, last month and last week.

The majority of students who reported having used hallucinogens in the previous year had used them infrequently. Fifty-five per cent of boys and 62% of girls indicated using hallucinogens only once or twice in the previous year. A further 19% of boys and 21% of girls who had used hallucinogens in the previous year had used them on 3-5 occasions. Students who had used hallucinogens in the year preceding the survey were asked what type of hallucinogens they had used. Students could indicate more than one type of hallucinogen. The hallucinogens most commonly used by students were ‘magic mushrooms’ (used by 55%) and ‘tabs’ (used by 55%) Liquid hallucinogens were used by 19% of students who had used hallucinogens in the previous year.

The pattern of results indicates a low, mainly experimental, level of hallucinogen use among secondary students.



### 3.6 Amphetamines

Table 7 illustrates the use of amphetamines in all time periods by age and gender. The behaviour reported here is supposed to exclude any medically supervised use.

The majority of secondary students (93%) had never used amphetamines. The proportions of students who had ever used these substances increased significantly with age, from 3% of 12-year-olds to 12% of students aged 17 years.

**Table 7: Amphetamines: Percentage of students according to recency of amphetamine use by age and gender**

Age		Never	Ever	Year	Month	Week
12	Total	97.2	2.8	2.0	1.2	1.0
	Male	96.4	3.6	2.7	1.8	1.6
	Female	98.1	1.9	1.2	0.6	0.3
13	Total	95.2	4.8	3.5	2.3	1.7
	Male	94.5	5.5	3.8	2.8	2.0
	Female	95.9	4.1	3.2	1.7	1.3
14	Total	93.0	7.0	6.0	3.1	2.0
	Male	92.7	7.3	6.2	3.8	2.5
	Female	93.2	6.7	5.7	2.4	1.5
15	Total	92.2	7.8	5.9	3.0	1.9
	Male	92.0	8.0	6.0	3.4	2.3
	Female	92.4	7.6	5.8	2.6	1.4
16	Total	89.7	10.3	8.2	3.6	2.0
	Male	88.5	11.5	9.0	4.5	2.8
	Female	90.9	9.1	7.4	2.7	1.3
17	Total	87.9	12.1	9.6	4.0	1.8
	Male	87.0	13.0	10.4	4.6	2.6
	Female	88.7	11.3	8.8	3.4	1.0
12-17	Total	92.9	7.1	5.5	2.8	1.7
	Male	92.3	7.7	6.0	3.4	2.3
	Female	93.5	6.5	5.1	2.2	1.1

Around 6% of all students had used amphetamines in the past year; this proportion was highest among the older students, increasing from 2% of 12-year-olds to 10% of those aged 17. Use in the last month was very low for all age groups, ranging from 1-4% and use in the last week was even lower, ranging from 1% to 2%.

Considering the use of amphetamines among males and females separately, although ever use was slightly higher among boys than girls, this difference was only significant among 12-year-olds and 16-year-olds. Among 16-year-olds, for instance, 12% of boys compared with 9% of girls had ever tried these substances. Differences in the proportion of male and female students using amphetamines in the last year were only significant among 12-year-olds. Use of amphetamines in the last month was significantly greater among boys than girls in all age groups except 15-year-olds and 17-year-olds. The proportions of males and females using amphetamines in the last week were significantly different among all age groups except for 13-year-olds and 15-year-olds.

Of those students who reported using amphetamines in the year prior to the study, 42% of boys and 51% of girls had used them only once or twice. Sixteen per cent of boys and 20% of girls had used amphetamines 3-5 times in the past year.

The use of amphetamines among Australian secondary students in 1999 was generally low. While prevalence increased with age, there was little difference in the proportions of students aged 15-17 who had used the drug in the last week. There were small increases in past use across all ages. The pattern of results found in the survey suggests that there was a low level of experimental use among secondary students, with only a few students having used amphetamines recently.

### 3.7 Steroids

Table 8 shows the proportion of students using steroids without a doctor's prescription in an attempt to improve sporting ability, increase muscle size or improve appearance, in all time periods by age and gender.

**Table 8: Steroids: Percentage of students according to recency of steroid use without a doctors' prescription in an attempt to improve sporting ability, increase muscle size or improve appearance, by age and gender**

Age		Never	Ever	Year	Month	Week
12	Total	96.7	3.3	2.4	1.3	1.0
	Male	96.2	3.8	2.7	1.4	1.3
	Female	97.2	2.8	2.1	1.2	0.8
13	Total	96.7	3.3	2.2	1.4	1.0
	Male	95.8	4.2	2.8	1.9	1.6
	Female	97.7	2.3	1.4	0.9	0.4
14	Total	97.3	2.7	2.1	1.3	0.8
	Male	96.1	3.9	2.9	1.8	1.2
	Female	98.5	1.5	1.2	0.7	0.4
15	Total	97.7	2.3	1.7	1.0	0.7
	Male	96.8	3.2	2.4	1.6	1.2
	Female	98.7	1.3	1.0	0.5	0.3
16	Total	97.6	2.4	1.9	1.4	0.9
	Male	96.4	3.6	2.9	2.2	1.8
	Female	98.8	1.2	0.9	0.5	0.1
17	Total	98.1	1.9	1.3	0.9	0.8
	Male	97.1	2.9	2.0	1.6	1.5
	Female	99.1	0.9	0.6	0.3	0.1
12-17	Total	97.3	2.7	2.0	1.2	0.9
	Male	96.3	3.7	2.7	1.8	1.4
	Female	98.3	1.7	1.3	0.7	0.4

The use of steroids without a prescription among secondary students was very low, and across the six age groups there was no significant difference in the proportions of students reporting use in any of the time periods. Both use in the last year and use in the last month were stable at around 1-2% across the six age groups. Only 1% of students in all age groups reported that they had used steroids without a prescription in the week before the survey.

From the age of 13, boys were significantly more likely than girls to have ever used steroids, and to have used them in the last year, last month and last week. For example, ever use was highest at 4% among male students aged 13, 14 and 16 years, and was about twice the rate among females in these age groups. The prevalence of use in the last month was about 2% for male students across the six age groups and was less than 1% for females 13 years and over.

While only a small proportion of students reported using steroids, of these users 31% of boys and 24% of girls indicated using non-prescribed steroids more than 10 times in the year before the survey. Age was not associated with frequency of use.

While the prevalence estimates reported here indicate very low levels of steroid use that was not medically prescribed among adolescents at school, the results also suggest that among students who were using steroids, use was fairly regular. Such behaviour was mainly concentrated among male students and did not differ substantially between age groups.

### 3.8 Opiates

Table 9 illustrates the use of opiates other than for medical reasons in all time periods by age and gender.

A small proportion (4%) of secondary students had ever used opiates or narcotics such as heroin or morphine other than for medical reasons. Across the six age groups, this ranged from 2% to 5%. Only 3% of students reported using opiates in the past year, this level of use was fairly stable among students aged between 13 and 17 years. Use in the last month was reported by around 1% of students; it peaked at 2% of 14-year-olds but was stable at 1% for students of other ages. Less than 1% of students reported using opiates in the week prior to the survey.

In most age groups, a higher proportion of males than females had ever used opiates; 2%-4% of girls compared with 3%-7% of boys. These differences were significant among 12, 16 and 17-year-old students. A greater proportion of males than females reported using opiates in the past year and again these differences were significant for the 12-year-olds and 17-year-olds. In general, a greater proportion of male than female students had used opiates in the past month and week. However, differences in male and female use of opiates in the last month were only significant for 12, 14 and 16-year-olds, while differences in weekly use were significant among 14, 15 and 16-year-olds.

Of the students who reported having used opiates in the year prior to the survey, 48% of boys and 59% of girls had used these substances only once or twice. Seventeen per cent of boys and 16% of girls who had used opiates in the last 12 months had used them 3-5 times.

The results reveal there was little use of opiates among Australian secondary students in 1999. The great majority of secondary students (96%) had never used substances such as heroin. Recent use was greatest among the 15-year-old students and was generally higher among males. However, it is noted that most of the students who had used opiates had not used them in the last month suggesting that student use was primarily experimental.

**Table 9: Opiates: Percentage of students according to recency of the use of opiates other than for medical reasons by age and gender**

Age		Never	Ever	Year	Month	Week
12	Total	97.6	2.4	1.5	0.6	0.5
	Male	96.8	3.2	2.0	1.0	0.7
	Female	98.3	1.7	0.9	0.3	0.2
13	Total	96.7	3.3	2.5	1.5	1.1
	Male	97.0	3.0	2.2	1.2	1.0
	Female	96.3	3.7	2.8	1.9	1.3
14	Total	95.3	4.7	3.1	1.7	1.2
	Male	95.1	4.9	3.3	2.1	1.7
	Female	95.6	4.4	3.0	1.2	0.6
15	Total	96.0	4.0	2.9	1.2	0.8
	Male	95.9	4.1	2.9	1.4	1.1
	Female	96.0	3.9	2.9	0.9	0.4
16	Total	95.8	4.2	2.7	1.2	0.7
	Male	95.0	5.0	3.1	1.8	1.1
	Female	96.5	3.5	2.3	0.6	0.4
17	Total	94.8	5.2	3.4	1.4	1.0
	Male	93.4	6.6	4.5	1.8	1.4
	Female	96.1	3.9	2.3	1.0	0.5
12-17	Total	96.1	3.9	2.6	1.3	0.9
	Male	95.7	4.3	2.9	1.5	1.1
	Female	96.5	3.5	2.4	1.0	0.6

### 3.9 Cocaine

Table 10 illustrates the use of cocaine in all time periods by age and gender.

As with opiate use, in 1999 most secondary students had never tried cocaine or crack. Only 4% of all students had ever used cocaine and the proportions across age groups ranged from 2% to 4%. Three-quarters of the students who had ever used cocaine reported using this substance in the last year. Around 1% of students had used cocaine in the month and week preceding the survey. Examining each age group, use in the last month was around 1% for all groups except for 13-14-year-olds, where around 2% reported having used cocaine in the previous month.

Ever use of cocaine showed a consistent pattern with boys being more likely than girls to have ever used cocaine at all ages. However, these differences were only significant among 16-17-year-olds. Use in the last year was only significantly higher among boys than girls among 16-17-year-olds. At all ages males showed consistently higher levels of use in the last month and last week when compared with females. The differences in male and female monthly use were significant for all groups except 13-year-olds and 15-year-olds, while differences in weekly use were significant at all ages except 12-year-olds and 15-year-olds.

**Table 10: Cocaine: Percentage of students according to recency of cocaine use by age and gender**

Age		Never	Ever	Year	Month	Week
12	Total	97.8	2.2	1.5	0.9	0.6
	Male	97.4	2.6	1.8	1.4	0.9
	Female	98.3	1.7	1.1	0.5	0.3
13	Total	96.6	3.4	2.5	1.6	1.0
	Male	96.5	3.5	2.5	1.8	1.4
	Female	96.7	3.3	2.5	1.4	0.6
14	Total	96.0	4.0	3.1	1.5	1.0
	Male	95.6	4.4	3.4	2.2	1.6
	Female	96.4	3.6	2.8	0.8	0.4
15	Total	96.0	4.0	2.8	1.2	0.6
	Male	95.8	4.2	3.1	1.5	0.9
	Female	96.1	3.9	2.6	1.0	0.4
16	Total	96.3	3.7	2.5	1.2	0.8
	Male	95.2	4.8	3.2	2.1	1.5
	Female	97.2	2.8	1.8	0.4	0.1
17	Total	95.8	4.2	2.7	1.2	0.5
	Male	93.8	6.2	3.5	2.1	1.0
	Female	97.6	2.4	2.0	0.3	0.0
12-17	Total	96.5	3.5	2.7	1.3	0.8
	Male	95.9	4.1	2.9	1.8	1.2
	Female	97.0	3.0	2.1	0.8	0.3

Cocaine use was infrequent among those students who reported using in the last year. Around 40% of males and 60% of females who reported using cocaine in the previous year had used it only once or twice.

Levels of cocaine or crack use were very low among Australian school students in 1999.

### 3.10 Ecstasy

Table 11 gives the proportion of students reporting the use of ecstasy in all time periods by age and gender.

A small proportion of secondary students had ever used ecstasy. Of all students, only 4% had ever had some sort of experience with this drug. Although use of ecstasy was not common among students in any age group, similar to other substances, the proportion of students who had ever used ecstasy increased significantly as students progressed through secondary school. Experience of using ecstasy was most common among 16-17-year-old students, with 6% having used this substance. Use in the past year ranged from 1% of students aged 12 years to 5% of 16-17-year-olds.

Use of ecstasy in the past month was consistently lower than use in the last year and use in the last week was lower than use in the last month. While the prevalence of use in the last month ranged from less than 1% of 12-year-olds to 2-3% of those aged 15-17 years, use in the last week ranged from less than 0.6% of 12-year-olds to less than 2% of 16-year-olds.

**Table 11: Ecstasy: Percentage of students according to recency of ecstasy use by age and gender**

Age		Never	Ever	Year	Month	Week
12	Total	97.7	2.3	1.3	0.9	0.6
	Male	96.5	3.5	1.9	1.3	0.9
	Female	99.0	1.0	0.6	0.4	0.3
13	Total	96.9	3.1	2.3	1.6	1.2
	Male	96.6	3.4	2.5	1.9	1.5
	Female	97.3	2.7	2.2	1.3	0.9
14	Total	95.9	4.0	3.0	1.6	0.9
	Male	95.7	4.3	3.0	2.1	1.1
	Female	96.1	3.9	3.0	1.1	0.6
15	Total	96.0	4.0	3.3	1.5	0.8
	Male	95.6	4.4	3.6	1.7	1.0
	Female	96.3	3.7	2.9	1.2	0.5
16	Total	94.2	5.8	4.7	2.5	1.7
	Male	93.5	6.5	5.2	3.4	2.3
	Female	94.9	5.1	4.3	1.7	1.2
17	Total	94.0	6.0	4.9	2.4	1.3
	Male	92.8	7.2	6.3	3.3	2.2
	Female	95.1	4.9	3.6	1.6	0.5
12-17	Total	96.0	4.0	3.1	1.7	1.0
	Male	95.4	4.6	3.5	2.2	1.4
	Female	96.6	3.4	2.7	1.2	0.7

A greater proportion of males than females reported ever using ecstasy. However, these differences were only significant among 12-year-olds and 17-year-olds. The differences between the use of ecstasy by males and females were also seen in the proportions of students using ecstasy in the last month and last week. The differences in male and female use of ecstasy in the last month were significant for all age groups except 13-year-olds and 15-year-olds. The differences in weekly use were only significant among 16 and 17-year-olds. Boys aged 16 and 17 were twice as likely to have used ecstasy during the month preceding the survey than were their female counterparts.

Similar to findings for other substances, nearly 50% of students who had used ecstasy in the year prior to the survey had used it only once or twice.

These results indicate that the proportion of Australian secondary students who had any experience of ecstasy, either recently or in the past, was very low. While use of ecstasy tended to increase with age, among all age groups prevalence was low, indicating that use of this substance was not widespread among secondary students in 1999. The results shown here suggest that use of ecstasy among secondary students was mainly experimental.

### 3.11 Poly-substance use

In response to a specific question, students who had used cannabis, amphetamines, hallucinogens and ecstasy in the previous year were asked to indicate any other substances they had used concurrently with these substances. As more than one other substance may have been used on any occasion, or different substances may have been used on different

occasions, students could indicate multiple substances. Students could indicate a substance from a list of seven, along with a response indicating that no other substance was used. Students could also indicate other substances that were not listed.

The proportion of students using cannabis, amphetamines, hallucinogens and ecstasy in the last year indicating they had used any of alcohol, tobacco, cannabis, hallucinogens amphetamines, ecstasy, analgesics on the same occasion is shown in Table 12. Alcohol and tobacco were the substances most commonly used in conjunction with cannabis, amphetamines, hallucinogens and ecstasy. Over half of the students who had used these substances in the previous year were drinking alcohol and/or using tobacco at the same time.

Among students who had used amphetamines, hallucinogens and ecstasy, cannabis was the next substance most commonly used in conjunction with these substances. Around 45% of students who had used amphetamines, hallucinogens and ecstasy in the last year had used cannabis on the same occasion as using these substances.

Around 20% of students who had used cannabis, amphetamines, hallucinogens or ecstasy in the past year did not use any other substance at the same time.

Around 13% of students who had used amphetamines in the past year reported using hallucinogens and ecstasy at the same time, 10% of students using hallucinogens in the past year reported using amphetamines and ecstasy, while 18% of students using ecstasy reported using amphetamines at the same time.

**Table 12: Percentage of students who had used cannabis, amphetamines, hallucinogens or ecstasy in the last 12 months indicating they had used other substances on the same occasion**

Substance used on same occasion	Substance used in the last 12 months			
	Cannabis	Amphetamines	Hallucinogens	Ecstasy
(n)*	(6333)	(1397)	(1239)	(777)
Alcohol	65%	55%	51%	58%
Tobacco	56%	53%	53%	53%
Cannabis	N/A**	47%	45%	43%
Hallucinogens	7%	14%	N/A**	15%
Amphetamines	8%	N/A**	11%	18%
Ecstasy	5%	13%	10%	N/A**
Analgesics	7%	9%	6%	8%
No other substance used	21%	23%	23%	20%
Other	2%	2%	1%	2%

\* Number of students surveyed using substance in previous year.

\*\* N/A = not applicable

### 3.12 Comparisons of the types of substances used by students in 1999

So far this report has concentrated on the separate prevalence estimates for each substance. In this section the relative levels of use of the different substances were examined in order to highlight the substances most commonly used by secondary students. Included in these comparisons were data on the prevalence of alcohol and tobacco use. These two substances were included to gain a complete picture of the types of substances most commonly used by secondary students. Lifetime use and use in the month before the survey were focused upon. Lifetime use provides an indication of the extent students have had contact with the substance, and the extent the substance may have been used in the past, even though they may not be using the substance any more. Use in the last month gives an indication of the recency of use and suggests current access to, and involvement with, the substance.

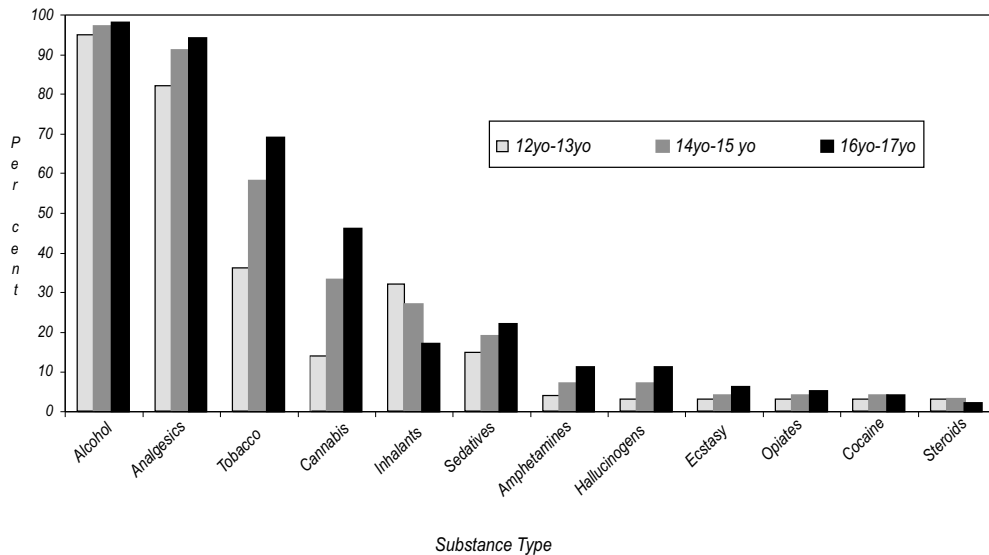
Lifetime experience of alcohol was assessed by the question 'Have you ever had an alcoholic drink?' with responses made on a 4-point scale ranging from 'No, never' to 'Yes, more than 10 drinks'. Lifetime experience of tobacco was assessed by the question 'Have you ever smoked even part of a cigarette?', with responses made on a 5-point scale ranging from 'No' to 'Yes, more than 100 cigarettes'. Students indicating they had consumed alcohol or tried a cigarette were classified as ever users of tobacco or alcohol. Monthly use was assessed by asking students to indicate if they had had an alcoholic drink or a cigarette in the last month. Students indicating they had had a drink or a cigarette in this time period were classified as recent users.

To obtain an overall picture of students' use of various substances, data for males and females were combined and data is presented for 12-13-year-olds, 14-15-year-olds and 16-17-year-olds. This combination of age groups reflects the junior, middle and senior years of secondary school and also reflects the age patterns for use of substances reported previously.

Figure 1 shows the proportions of students who had ever used each of the various substances for the three age groups. As seen, students of all ages have most experience with the legal substances analgesics, alcohol and tobacco. Analgesics were the most widely used substance, with over 95% of students in all three age groups having some experience of them. Experience with alcohol was also high among all age groups, with experience increasing as students move through secondary school. Tobacco was the next most commonly used substance. Experience with tobacco also increased as students progressed through secondary school.



**Figure 1: Percentage of students who had ever used any licit or illicit substance, Australia, 1999**



Cannabis was the most widely used illicit substance and was the fourth most widely used substance among adolescents. Once again, experience with cannabis is seen to increase with age, with around 45% of 16-17-year-olds having used this substance at some point in their life.

Inhalants were the next most commonly used substance. Again the unusual pattern where lifetime use of inhalants becomes less common with increasing age was found.

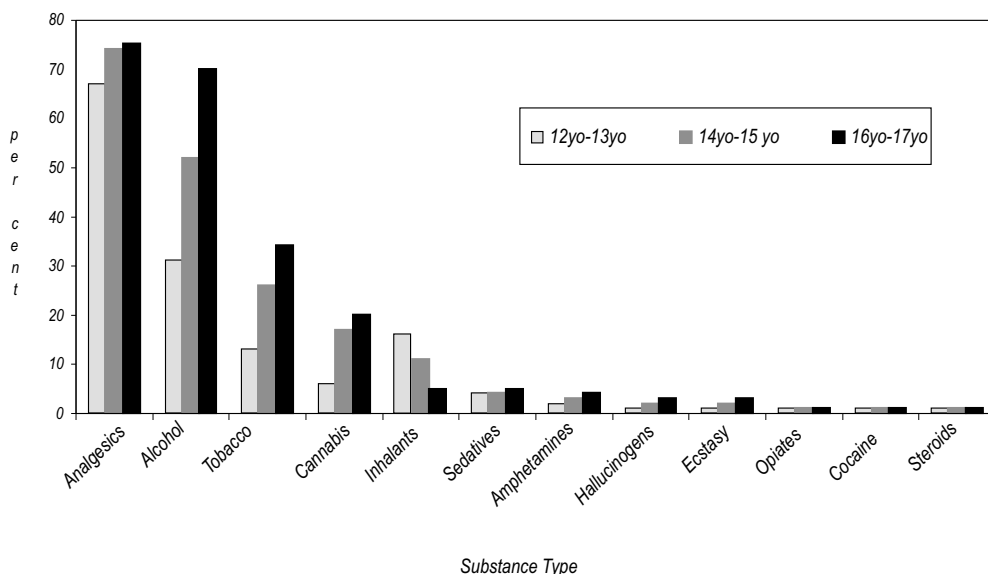
Amphetamines and hallucinogens were the next most commonly used substances, and again their use increased with age. Amphetamines and hallucinogens had been tried by over 10% of 16-17-year-olds. Experience with other illicit drugs was rare across all age groups.

Figure 2 shows the proportion of students in the three age groups who had used any of the licit and illicit substances in the month prior to the survey. The pattern of substance use seen in Figure 1 was also found in Figure 2. The licit substances were the most commonly used substances. Analgesics had been used by around 70% of all students in the last month. Alcohol was the next most commonly used substance, with more students in each age group having used alcohol in the month prior to the survey than any other substance excluding analgesics. For all age groups, tobacco was the next most commonly used substance in the four weeks preceding the survey. Once again more students in each of the three age groups had used tobacco in the month before the survey than had used any of the illicit substances.

Of the illicit substances cannabis was the one most widely used in the previous month. Over 15% of students aged 14 and over had used cannabis in the month before the survey.

Inhalants were the next most commonly used substance, and again use of inhalants was more common among younger students than older students. Recent use of hallucinogens and amphetamines increased with age, and less than 5% of older students had used these substances in the month before the survey. Recent use of other illicit substances was rare across all age groups.

**Figure 2: Percentage of students who had used any licit or illicit substance in the last month, Australia, 1999**



### 3.13 Lessons about substance use in the previous school year

Students were asked to indicate if they could recall receiving any lessons on the use of illicit drugs and other substances in the previous school year. The proportion of students who did not recall receiving any lessons, who recalled receiving part of a lesson or one or more lessons in the previous school year is shown on Table 13. Across all age groups, 23% of students indicated that they had not received any lessons on illicit substance use in the previous school year, while 39% indicated that they had received more than one lesson about this topic. The highest proportions of students not receiving a lesson about illicit drug use were found among the 12-year-olds (30%), 13-year-olds (27%) and 17-year-olds (31%). This may indicate that schools were less likely to include lessons about the use of illicit substances in the curriculum of Years 6 and 7 students and in the Year 11 curriculum. Students aged 14, 15 and 16 were most likely to report receiving more than one lesson about the topic in the previous school year. This finding indicates that schools were most likely to include lessons about the use of illicit substances in the curriculum of Years 8, 9 and 10 students.

**Table 13: Percentage of students indicating they had received part, one, more than one or no lessons about the use of illicit substances in the previous school year**

	Age						
	12	13	14	15	16	17	12-17
No lessons	30%	27%	18%	16%	20%	31%	23%
Part of a lesson	21%	19%	16%	17%	16%	21%	18%
One lesson	23%	21%	21%	21%	18%	16%	20%
More than one lesson	26%	33%	45%	46%	45%	32%	39%

### 3.14 Changes in use of substances between 1996 and 1999

In this section the proportion of students using the different substances in 1999 was compared with those found in a similar study of secondary students conducted in 1996.<sup>2</sup> The questions used to assess the use of the different illicit substances, as well as the use of sedatives, analgesics and inhalants in the 1999 survey were the same as those used in the 1996 survey. The procedures for sampling schools and students within schools were the same in 1996 and 1999, as were the procedures for administering the survey. While the proportion of schools agreeing to participate in the survey from the original sample was higher in 1996 (77%) than 1999 (65%), the overall school participation rate was high in both survey years (94% in 1996 and 93% in 1999).

For these analyses responses from students aged 12-15 years were combined, as were the responses from 16-17-year-olds. These age groupings not only reflect the distinction between junior (Years 7 to 10) and senior (Years 11 and 12) secondary students but also reflect the age of compulsory education (school is compulsory until the age of 15). The school retention rates, which were available for year levels rather than age, indicate that in 1996, 71% of students in Australia stayed in school till Year 12, while in 1999, 72% of students stayed at school till Year 12.<sup>8</sup>

Analyses compared the proportion of students who had ever used a substance in 1996 and 1999 and the proportion of students who had used a substance recently (in the last month). Again these two time periods were chosen as they indicated the extent to which students had any contact with the substance, and the extent to which students had current access to, and involvement with, the substance. For analgesics, sedatives and cannabis, use in the past week was also examined. The significance of differences in the proportion of students using the various substances in these time periods was tested using chi-square tests of association after controlling for the effects of age, school type and State and, for analyses of male and female data combined, sex. The potential non-independence of students within schools was adjusted for in analyses. Again, given the large sample size and the number of tests conducted, only those differences associated with a p-value of <.01 were considered significant.

**Analgesics:** Table 14 presents the proportion of 12-15-year-olds and 16-17-year-olds who had used analgesics in their lifetime, the last month and the last week in 1996 and 1999.

There was a small reduction in the proportion of students who had ever used analgesics among both junior and senior students. However, this reduction was not found when comparing the proportion of students who had used analgesics recently or in the last week across the two years. The results suggest there has been little change in the prevalence of analgesic use among secondary students between 1996 and 1999.

**Sedatives:** As can be seen from Table 14, fewer junior secondary students reported using sedatives in 1999 than in 1996. The reductions in the proportion of all students using these substances in their lifetime or in the previous month were statistically significant. However, the reduction in the use of sedatives among males was not significant. Among senior students, there had been little change in the use of sedatives. The data suggest that older students in 1999 were slightly more likely to have ever used sedatives compared with senior students in 1996. However, this increase was not significant and was not associated with an increase in monthly or weekly use of sedatives.

**Table 14: Percentage of students using analgesics or sedatives in their life, in the last month or in the last week in 1999 and 1996**

Substance	Recency period	Gender	12-15-year-olds			16-17-year-olds		
			1999 %	1996 %	Sig	1999 %	1996 %	sig
Analgesics	Lifetime	Total	96	97	<.01	97	98	<.01
		Male	95	97	<.01	96	98	<.01
		Female	97	98	<.01	98	99	ns
	Month	Total	71	73	ns	75	76	ns
		Male	67	68	ns	67	67	ns
		Female	76	78	ns	84	84	ns
	Week	Total	42	41	ns	43	43	ns
		Male	38	36	ns	37	35	ns
		Female	46	46	ns	50	51	ns
Sedatives	Lifetime	Total	17	19	<.01	22	20	ns
		Male	18	19	ns	21	19	ns
		Female	16	20	<.01	24	21	ns
	Month	Total	4	5	<.01	5	5	ns
		Male	4	5	ns	5	5	ns
		Female	4	5	<.01	5	5	ns
	Week	Total	2	3	ns	3	3	ns
		Male	2	3	ns	3	3	ns
		Female	2	2	ns	2	3	ns

ns = not significant  $p > .01$

**Table 15: Percentage of students using cannabis in their life in the last month or in the last week in 1999 and 1996**

Substance	Recency period	Gender	12-15-year-olds			16-17-year-olds		
			1999 %	1996 %	Sig	1999 %	1996 %	sig
Cannabis	Lifetime	Total	24	30	<.01	46	52	<.01
		Male	27	33	<.01	50	55	<.01
		Female	21	26	<.01	43	50	<.01
	Month	Total	12	16	<.01	20	27	<.01
		Male	13	19	<.01	23	31	<.01
		Female	10	14	<.01	17	24	<.01
	Week	Total	7	10	<.01	12	17	<.01
		Male	9	12	<.01	15	21	<.01
		Female	6	8	<.01	9	13	<.01

**Cannabis:** The proportions of students using cannabis in their lifetime, in the last month or in the last week in 1996 and 1999 are shown in Table 15. Significantly fewer 12-15-year-old and 16-17-year-old students had used cannabis in each of the time periods in 1999 than in 1996. This decrease was consistent across both males and females. The proportion of 12-15-year-olds who had used cannabis in the last month had decreased from 16% in 1996 to 12% in 1999, while among 16-17-year-olds the proportions using cannabis recently had decreased from 27% to 20% in 1999.

**Hallucinogens:** Table 16 shows the proportion of students using hallucinogens in their lifetime and in the previous month in 1996 and 1999. Among 12-15-year-olds there was a decrease in the proportion of students reporting that they had ever used hallucinogens and in the proportions reporting recent use of these substances. These decreases were significant for all students and among male students. Among 16-17-year-olds, there was a significant decrease in the proportion of students who had ever used hallucinogens between 1996 and 1999. This decrease was mainly due to a decline in the proportion of females ever using these substances. Recent use of hallucinogens had also declined between 1996 and 1999 and again this was mainly due to a decrease in the proportion of female students reporting to have used hallucinogens in the month preceding the survey.

**Amphetamines:** The proportion of students using amphetamines in 1996 and 1999 is shown in Table 16. Use of amphetamines had increased among junior secondary students between 1996 and 1999. In 1996, 5% of students aged 12-15 years had ever used amphetamines while in 1999, 6% reported using these substances. This change was due to an increase in the proportion of girls using these substances over this three-year period. The proportion of students reporting monthly use of amphetamines had also increased between 1996 and 1999, from 2% to 3%. Again this increase was due to an increase in the proportion of girls aged 12-15 reporting use of amphetamines in this time period between 1996 and 1999.

Among older students, lifetime and monthly use of amphetamines had increased between 1996 and 1999. While 9% of 16-17-year-olds reported using amphetamines in 1996, in 1999 this proportion had increased to 11%. The increase in the lifetime use of amphetamines was found among both male and female students. The increase in lifetime use of these substances translated into an increase in the proportion of students reporting use of amphetamines in the previous month between 1996 and 1999.

Despite these increases, the proportion of students using amphetamines remained very low.

**Table 16: Percentage of students using hallucinogens, amphetamines or ecstasy in their lifetime and in the last month in 1999 and 1996**

Substance	Recency period	Gender	12-15-year-olds			16-17-year-olds		
			1999 %	1996 %	sig	1999 %	1996 %	sig
Hallucinogens	Lifetime	Total	5	7	<.01	11	13	<.01
		Male	6	8	<.01	13	14	ns
		Female	5	5	ns	9	13	<.01
	Month	Total	2	3	<.01	3	4	<.01
		Male	2	3	<.01	4	5	ns
		Female	1	2	ns	2	3	<.01
Amphetamines	Lifetime	Total	6	5	<.01	11	9	<.01
		Male	6	6	ns	12	10	.01
		Female	5	4	<.01	10	8	ns
	Month	Total	3	2	<.01	4	3	<.01
		Male	3	3	ns	5	4	.01
		Female	2	1	<.01	3	2	<.01
Ecstasy	Lifetime	Total	4	3	ns	6	5	ns
		Male	4	4	ns	7	6	ns
		Female	3	2	ns	5	4	ns
	Month	Total	2	1	ns	3	2	<.01
		Male	2	2	ns	3	2	ns
		Female	1	1	ns	2	1	<.01

ns = not significant  $p > .01$

**Ecstasy:** The proportions of students using ecstasy in 1996 and 1999 among 12-15-year-olds and 16-17-year-olds are shown in the last section of Table 16. While the proportion of 12-15-year-olds indicating they had used ecstasy at some stage in their life was slightly higher in 1999 than the proportions indicating ever using this substance in 1996, this difference was not significant. Between 1996 and 1999 there had been no change in the proportion of students aged 12-15 indicating they had used ecstasy in the month before the survey.

Among students aged 16-17 years, the proportions who had ever used ecstasy had increased between 1996 and 1999 from 5% to 6%. However, this increase was not significant at the  $p < .01$  level. The proportion of students in this age group reporting that they had used ecstasy in the month before the survey had increased between 1996 and 1999 and these increases were significant for all students and for females.

Despite the recent increase in ecstasy use among 16-17-year-old students, the proportion of students using ecstasy in the month prior to the survey remained very low.

**Cocaine:** The proportion of students reporting to have used cocaine in 1996 and 1999 are shown in Table 17. In general there was no change in the proportion of younger or older students indicating they had used cocaine either in their lifetime or in the month prior to the survey.

**Table 17: Percentage of students who had used cocaine or opiates in their life or in the last month in 1999 and 1996**

Substance	Recency period	Gender	12-15-year-olds			16-17-year-olds		
			1999 %	1996 %	Sig	1999 %	1996 %	sig
Cocaine	Lifetime	Total	4	4	ns	4	3	ns
		Male	4	5	.01	5	4	ns
		Female	3	3	ns	3	3	ns
	Month	Total	1	1	ns	1	1	ns
		Male	2	2	ns	2	2	ns
		Female	1	1	ns	-	-	ns
Opiates	Lifetime	Total	4	4	ns	5	4	ns
		Male	4	4	ns	6	5	ns
		Female	4	3	ns	4	3	ns
	Month	Total	1	1	ns	1	1	ns
		Male	2	2	ns	2	2	ns
		Female	1	1	ns	1	-	ns

ns = not significant  $p > .01$

**Opiates:** Table 17 also shows the proportion of students indicating they had used opiates in their lifetime or in the last month, in 1999 and 1996. There was no change in the proportion of 12-15-year-olds indicating they had ever used opiates or had used them in the previous month between 1996 and 1999. Among older students, 5% reported that they had used opiates in their lifetime in 1999 and this was not significantly different from the 4% found in 1996. In addition, the proportion of students aged 16-17 years indicating that they had used opiates in the month before the survey had not changed between 1996 and 1999.

**Inhalants:** There was no change in the proportion of students reporting to have used inhalants in their lifetime or in the month prior to the survey, between 1996 and 1999.

Among 12-15-year-olds, 29% of students in both 1996 and 1999 indicated that they had used inhalants in their lifetime, while 13% of students in 1996 and 1999 had used inhalants in the previous month. Among 16-17-year-olds, 17% of students in both 1996 and 1999 had used inhalants in their lifetime, while 5% of students in 1999 and 4% of students in 1996 had used inhalants in the previous month. The difference in the prevalence of monthly use of inhalants was not significant.

**Steroids:** The proportion of 12-15-year-olds using steroids at some time in their life had increased significantly from 2% in 1996 to 3% in 1999. This increase was found among both girls (from 1% in 1996 to 2% in 1999,  $p < .01$ ) and boys (from 3% in 1996 to 4% in 1999,  $p < .01$ ). However, this increase in lifetime use did not translate into an increase in recent use, where a slight decrease in prevalence was found. In 1996, 2% of students aged 12-15 had indicated they had used steroids in the month prior to the survey, in 1999 only 1% had used steroids in the previous month. However, this decrease was not significant at the  $p < .01$  level. Between 1996 and 1999 there was no change in the proportion of 16-17-year-olds reporting using steroids in their lifetime or in the previous month. In both 1996 and 1999, 2% of students aged 16-17 years indicated they had ever used steroids, with 1% of students indicating they had used steroids in the month prior to the survey in both these years.

**Any illicit substances:** The proportion of students in each of the two age groups who had used any of cannabis, hallucinogens, amphetamines, cocaine, opiates or ecstasy in their life time and in the month prior to the survey in 1996 and 1999 is shown in Table 18. Among both older and younger students, the proportion of students who had used any illicit substance had declined between 1996 and 1999. Among 12-15-year-olds, there had been a significant decrease in the proportion of students using any illicit substance from 31% in 1996 to 26% in 1999. A corresponding decrease was seen among 16-17-year-olds, where the proportion of students who had used any illicit substance decreased significantly from 52% in 1996 to 47% in 1999. The decreases in lifetime use of any illicit substance were reflected in the levels of recent use of any illicit substance. Among 12-15-year-olds, recent use of any illicit substance decreased significantly from 17% in 1996 to 13% in 1999. Among 16-17-year-olds, the 21% of students who had used any illegal substance in the month prior to the survey in 1999 was significantly lower than the 28% found in 1996.

**Any illicit drug excluding cannabis:** Because the use of cannabis was so much more prevalent than any other substance, trends in its use tend to drive trends in the use of 'any illicit substance'. For this reason, the above analyses were repeated using an index of illicit substance use that excluded cannabis. The proportion of students who had used any illicit drug other than cannabis in their lifetime or in the prior month in 1999 and 1996 is shown in Table 18. The proportions of students using any illicit drug other than cannabis were considerably lower than when the index of drug use included cannabis, but were still impressive. In both 1999 and 1996, nearly 20% of 16-17-year-olds and over 10% of 12-15-year-olds indicated they had used an illegal drug other than cannabis in their lifetime. The proportion of students aged 12-15 and 16-17 who had used any illicit substance other than cannabis either in their lifetime or recently had not changed between 1996 and 1999.



**Table 18: Percentage of students who had used any illicit substance or any illicit substance excluding cannabis, in their life or in the last month in 1999 and 1996**

Substance	Recency period	Gender	12-15-year-olds			16-17-year-olds		
			1999 %	1996 %	Sig	1999 %	1996 %	sig
Any illicit substance	Lifetime	Total	26	31	<.01	47	52	<.01
		Male	29	35	<.01	50	55	ns
		Female	23	28	<.01	44	50	<.01
	Month	Total	13	17	<.01	21	28	<.01
		Male	15	19	<.01	24	32	<.01
		Female	11	15	<.01	18	24	<.01
Any illicit substance excluding cannabis	Lifetime	Total	11	11	ns	17	17	ns
		Male	12	12	ns	19	18	ns
		Female	10	9	ns	16	16	ns
	Month	Total	5	4	ns	6	6	ns
		Male	6	5	ns	8	7	ns
		Female	3	3	ns	4	5	ns

ns = not significant  $p > .01$

## 4. Conclusion

This 1999 national survey provides recent estimates on the prevalence of the use of illicit and over-the-counter substances among adolescent males and females between the age of 12 and 17 years. The large sample of students used in this study ensures estimates for these subgroups are reliable, enabling age and sex specific trends to be explored.

Before discussing the findings of this study, several limitations of the data need to be noted. Firstly, schools were used as the basis for surveying adolescents. This means that students who did not remain in school past the age of 15 were excluded from the study and that estimates for 16-17-year-olds are only generalisable to the population of students rather than to all adolescents aged 16-17 years. As adolescents who do not complete secondary school are more likely to use substances,<sup>9</sup> this study is likely to underestimate the prevalence of substance use among the population of 16-17-year-olds. In addition, it was possible that students with good school attendance were more likely to participate in the survey than students with poor attendance records. This selection bias may also mean that the results of this study tend towards underestimating prevalence. However, countering this bias, is the possibility that students, particularly younger students, may exaggerate their use of illicit substances leading to slightly inflated estimates. While it must be acknowledged that this may be the case for the responses of some students in this study, as noted in our earlier report, previous work has indicated that the vast majority of students answer questionnaires of the type used in this study honestly.<sup>10</sup>

Despite these limitations, the study provides valuable information on the use of substances among Australian secondary students. Similar to the findings from the 1996 survey of secondary students, the 1999 survey found that the use of analgesics was a large part of the experience of adolescents of all ages. While the majority of students had not used any illegal substance, 32% of students aged between 12 and 17 years had tried any of cannabis, hallucinogens, amphetamines, ecstasy, opiates or cocaine. Of the illicit substances included in this survey, cannabis was the one most widely used, with around 50% of 16-17-year-olds having tried this substance. However, when the prevalence of lifetime and recent use of licit and illicit substances was compared, analgesics, alcohol and tobacco were the substances most widely used by adolescents.

Despite small decreases in the lifetime use of analgesics between 1996 and 1999, analgesic use (which included Disprin and Panadol) was widespread among secondary students. By the age of 12, 95% of students had used analgesics and 35% of 12-year-old students had used them in the week before the survey. As was the case in 1996, recent use was more common among girls than boys and although most recent users of analgesics had used them only once or twice, the general high level of analgesic use may be of some concern.

In 1999, the use of inhalants within any time period was more common among younger than older students. This pattern of results was also found in 1996 where it was suggested that younger students may have been including sniffing 'white out' or 'textas' in their responses, thereby inflating prevalence estimates. In an attempt to reduce the likelihood of students including these substances in their responses, in the 1999 survey students were specifically instructed not to include sniffing 'textas' or 'white out'. The possibility that younger and older students interpreted the question differently should have been reduced. This inverse relationship between prevalence and age may be due to inhalants being a 'kiddie' drug with students growing out of using these substances as they get older. If this were the case, the

patterns of ever use among older and younger students would be similar, as many older students would have used inhalants when they were younger. The results, however, do not reflect this. While around 30% of 12-13-year-olds had ever used inhalants, this decreased to 18% of 16-year-old students. That fewer older than younger students had ever used inhalants may indicate that the use of inhalants among younger students was a recent phenomenon, with students who are now in the upper levels not having used such substances several years ago. This is unlikely, as the proportion of younger students found to be using inhalants in 1996 was similar to that found in the present study (32% of 12-year-olds had used inhalants in 1996). Reasons for the finding that fewer older students reported ever using inhalants need to be investigated.

Unlike the results for the other illicit substances, just under half of the students who had used cannabis in the month prior to the survey had used it in the last week. In addition, rather than the pattern found for other substances where the majority of users had used the substance infrequently, just under half of the male and over a third of the female students who reported using cannabis in the previous year had used this substance on more than 10 occasions. These findings suggest that the use of cannabis among secondary students was more of a regular than occasional behaviour. Among illicit substance users, cannabis was the drug most commonly used. These results suggest that if adolescents are going to use an illicit substance, cannabis is the substance they are most likely to use. As cannabis is still illegal, the apparent widespread regular use of cannabis gives cause for concern and presents a challenge to those working with young people.

While the proportion of secondary students using cannabis had decreased between 1996 and 1999, cannabis was still the illicit substance most commonly used by secondary students. Over 45% of senior students had tried cannabis at some time in their lives and 20% had used it in the month preceding the survey. This study's finding that between 1996 and 1999 cannabis use had decreased among both male and female students conflicts with findings from the 1998 National Drug Strategy (NDS) survey,<sup>1</sup> where cannabis use among girls aged 14-19 was found to have increased between 1995 and 1998, while use had remained stable among boys in this age. However, despite these differing trends in use, the level of lifetime and yearly use of cannabis found in the 1998 NDS survey was similar to the level found in the present report. The NDS study found that 45% of 14-19-year-olds had used cannabis in their lifetime and 35% had used this substance in the previous year. In the present study, 38% of 14-17-year-olds had tried cannabis and 31% had used it in the past year. The slight differences in the estimates may be explained by the NDS study including 18-19-year-olds and 16-17-year-olds who had left school in their estimates. The differences may also be due to sampling error. However, the similarity of the estimates for cannabis use found in the present study and the NDS household survey suggests that the decrease in cannabis use among secondary students may be a recent phenomenon.

Following cannabis and inhalants, amphetamines and hallucinogens were the next most commonly used substances. Around 12% of 17-year-old students in 1999 had ever used hallucinogens or amphetamines. While the proportion of both younger and older students who had ever used hallucinogens and had used these substances in the last month had decreased between 1996 and 1999, the proportions using amphetamines had increased. This result is consistent with findings from other reports showing that the use of amphetamines has increased in most States across the country.<sup>11</sup> However, as in 1996 most use of these two substances was experimental, with only 3%-4% of 16-17-year-old students reporting to have used these substances in the month before the survey.

Use of the other illicit substances and steroids by secondary students was rare and there had been little change in the prevalence of these substances between 1996 and 1999. The results suggest that any use of illicit substances other than cannabis by secondary students was likely to be experimental rather than regular.

The decrease in the use of cannabis between 1996 and 1999 drove the decrease in the proportion of students who had used any illicit substance. Once cannabis had been excluded from the index of drug use, the proportion of students using other types of illicit substances between 1996 and 1999 had not changed. Overall, this finding suggests that while the particular types of substances students use may change over time, the proportion of students who are prepared to use illicit substances (excluding cannabis) may be stable.

In 1999, students who had used cannabis, hallucinogens, amphetamines and ecstasy in the 12 months preceding the survey were asked if they had used any other substances on the same occasion. The results showed that mixing substances was not uncommon among those students who had used these four illicit substances. Tobacco and alcohol were the substances most likely to be used when students were using cannabis, hallucinogens, amphetamines or ecstasy. This finding shows the importance of including these two substances in programs and campaigns designed to address the issue of illicit substance use among adolescents. Of some concern was the finding that over 10% of students who had used any of amphetamines, hallucinogens or ecstasy in the past 12 months were increasing their risk of an adverse consequence by mixing them.

In summary, the most widely and regularly used substances among Australian secondary school students in 1999 were the legal drugs: analgesics, alcohol and tobacco. In contrast to the prevalence estimates for the legal substances, the use of illicit drugs, except cannabis, was low. Although there had been a decline in the proportion of students using cannabis between 1996 and 1999, cannabis was still the most frequently used illegal drug. The proportion of students using amphetamines had increased between 1996 and 1999. It was not uncommon for students to use several substances together, with alcohol, tobacco and cannabis being the substances most commonly mixed with hallucinogens, amphetamines or ecstasy. As in 1996, use of substances such as cocaine, opiates, ecstasy or steroids was rare.

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# Appendix 1

## Questionnaire – Victoria

# SURVEY

- \* Please do not put your name on this paper.
- \* Your answers are anonymous and confidential.
- \* Answer every question you can.
- \* If you can't answer a question or if you would rather not answer a question, leave it out and go on to the next one.
- \* For most questions, there is a choice of answers. Pick the one that's true for you and tick the box next to it.
- \* If you make a mistake or change your answer, cross out the mistake and tick the new response.
- \* For some questions, you may need to write a short answer in the space provided.

Office use only

STATE 1	SCHOOL	ID	PCODE	LEVEL	CAMPUS
PATTERN	SCHSEX		STRATA	TEACH	DAY
ORDER 1	INITIALS		DATE	MONTH	CONSENT

1. (a) What suburb or town do you live in? \_\_\_\_\_  
(b) What is the postcode of your address? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What year level (or form) are you in?
  - 1  Year 7 (Form 1)
  - 2  Year 8 (Form 2)
  - 3  Year 9 (Form 3)
  - 4  Year 10 (Form 4)
  - 5  Year 11 (Form 5)
  - 6  Year 12 (Form 6)
3. How old are you now?
  - 10  10
  - 11  11
  - 12  12
  - 13  13
  - 14  14
  - 15  15
  - 16  16
  - 17  17
  - 18  18
  - 19  19 and over
4. What sex are you?
  - 1  Male
  - 2  Female
5. What is your date of birth? \_\_ \_\_ / \_\_ \_\_ / 19 \_\_ \_\_
6. During a normal week, how much money do you have available to spend on yourself? (eg from pocket money, part-time job).
  - 1  None
  - 2  Less than \$10
  - 3  \$11 – \$20
  - 4  \$21 – \$40
  - 5  \$41 – \$60
  - 6  \$61 – \$80
  - 7  Over \$80



7. At school work, do you consider yourself:
- 1  A lot above average?
  - 2  Above average?
  - 3  Average?
  - 4  Below average?
  - 5  A lot below average?
8. Were you at school yesterday?
- 1  Yes
  - 2  No
9. Are you an Aborigine or Torres Strait Islander?
- 1  No
  - 2  Yes – Aborigine
  - 3  Yes – Torres Strait Islander
  - 4  Yes – both Aborigine and Torres Strait Islander
10. What is the main language spoken at home? Tick only one box.
- 1  English
  - 2  Another language only (specify which language) \_\_\_\_\_
  - 3  English and another language  
(specify the other language) \_\_\_\_\_

**THE NEXT FEW QUESTIONS ARE ABOUT DRINKING ALCOHOL – BEER, WINE, WINE COOLERS, ALCOHOLIC SODAS, SPIRITS, LIQUEURS, ALCOHOLIC APPLE CIDER, SHERRY OR PORT.**

11. At the present time, do you consider yourself:
- 1  A non-drinker?
  - 2  An occasional drinker?
  - 3  A light drinker?
  - 4  A party drinker?
  - 5  A heavy drinker?
12. Have you **ever** had even part of an alcoholic drink?
- 1  No
  - 2  Yes, just a few sips
  - 3  Yes, I have had fewer than 10 alcoholic drinks in my life
  - 4  Yes, I have had more than 10 alcoholic drinks in my life

13. Have you had an alcoholic drink in the last **twelve months**?

1  Yes

2  No

14. Have you had an alcoholic drink in the last **four weeks**?

1  Yes

2  No

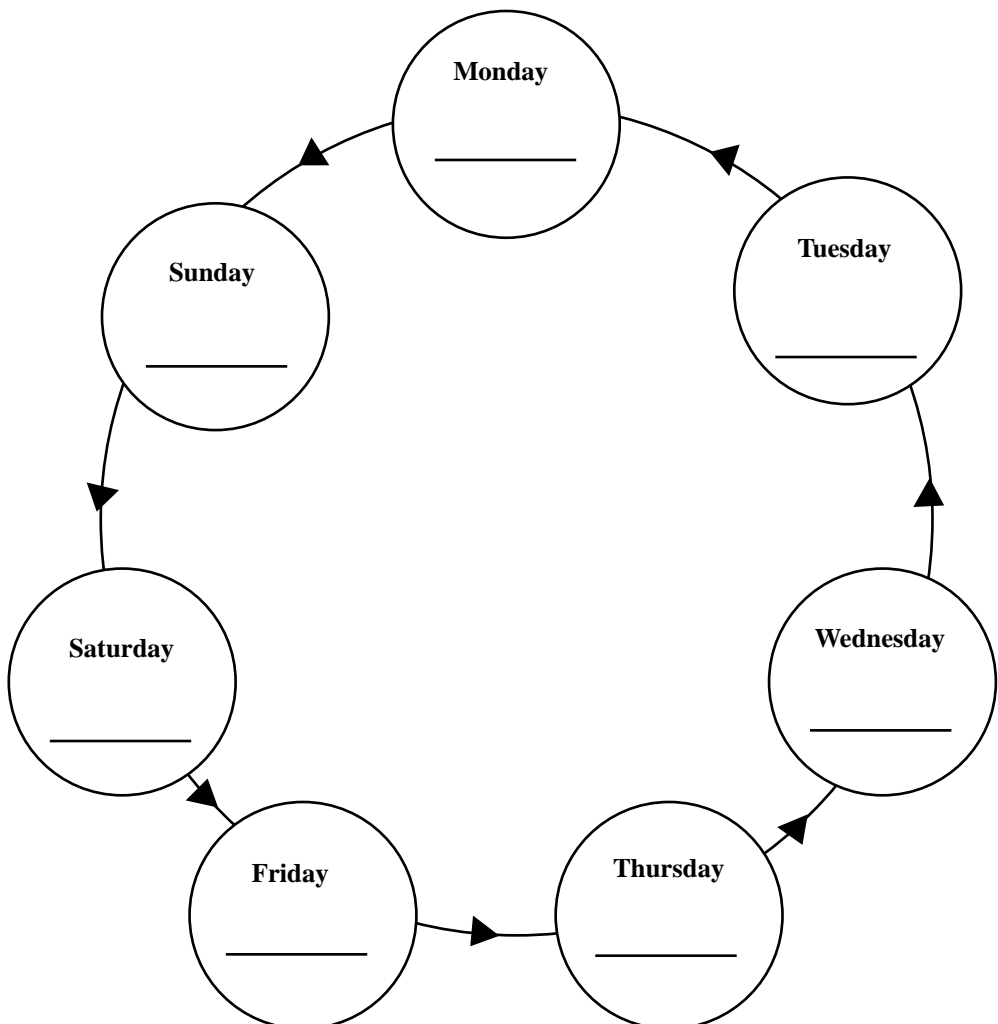
15. This question is about the number of alcoholic drinks you had during the last **seven days**, including yesterday.

*Put a tick near **yesterday**. Then in the space provided, write the number of alcoholic drinks you had yesterday. If you didn't have any alcoholic drinks, put in '0'. Start filling in the spaces beginning with yesterday, and follow the arrows.*

**Answer for every day of the week.**

*Write in the circle the number of alcoholic drinks you had each day.*

*Put '0' for each day you didn't drink any alcoholic drinks.*



**QUESTIONS 16, 17, 18 AND 19 ARE FOR ANYONE WHO HAS HAD AN ALCOHOLIC DRINK.**

**IF YOU HAVE NEVER HAD AN ALCOHOLIC DRINK, GO TO QUESTION 20.**

16. What alcoholic drink do you usually have?

*Tick the box near the drink you **usually** have. If that drink is not listed here, tick the box next to 'Other' and write the name of the drink in the space provided.*

- 01  Ordinary beer
- 02  Low alcohol beer
- 03  Wine
- 04  Wine Cooler (eg West Coast Coolers)
- 05  Champagne or sparkling wine (eg Spumante, Passion Pop)
- 06  Alcoholic Apple Cider (eg Strongbow)
- 07  Alcoholic Sodas (eg Two Dogs, Sub Zero, Lemon Ruski)
- 08  Spirits (eg rum, brandy, whisky, gin, vodka etc)
- 09  Liqueurs (eg Tia Maria, Kahlua, Midori etc)
- 10  Port
- \*\*  Other \_\_\_\_\_

*You should have ticked only **one** box.*

17. Where, or from whom, **did you get** your **last** alcoholic drink?

*Fill in the space beside 'Other' if you can't find your answer.*

*Tick only **one** box.*

**I didn't buy it...**

**OR**

**I bought it at a ....**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 01 <input type="checkbox"/> My parent(s) gave it to me                          | 51 <input type="checkbox"/> Hotel, pub or tavern          |
| 02 <input type="checkbox"/> My brother or sister gave it to me                  | 52 <input type="checkbox"/> Licensed store or supermarket |
| 03 <input type="checkbox"/> I took it from home without my parent(s) permission | 53 <input type="checkbox"/> Walk-in bottle-shop           |
| 04 <input type="checkbox"/> Friends gave it to me                               | 54 <input type="checkbox"/> Drive-in bottle-shop          |
| 05 <input type="checkbox"/> I got someone to buy it for me                      | 55 <input type="checkbox"/> Club                          |
| ** <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____   | 56 <input type="checkbox"/> Restaurant                    |
|   | 57 <input type="checkbox"/> Disco or dance                |
|   | 58 <input type="checkbox"/> Sporting event                |
|   | ** <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____                   |

*You should have ticked only **one** box.*

18. **Where** did you drink your **last** alcoholic drink?

*Fill in the space beside 'Other' if you can't find your answer.*

*Tick only **one** box.*

**I drank it at...**

- 01  The beach
- 02  A hotel
- 03  A club
- 04  A disco or dance
- 05  A party
- 06  In a park
- 07  A restaurant
- 08  A sporting event
- 09  My school
- 10  My home
- 11  My friend's home
- 12  In a car
- \*\*  Other \_\_\_\_\_

*You should have ticked only **one** box.*

19. (a) Think back over the last **two weeks**. How many times have you had **three or more** drinks on any *one* occasion in the last two weeks?

- 1  None
- 2  Once
- 3  Twice
- 4  3 – 6 times
- 5  7 – 9 times
- 6  10 or more times

(b) Think back over the last **two weeks**. How many times have you had **five or more** drinks on any *one* occasion in the last two weeks?

- 1  None
- 2  Once
- 3  Twice
- 4  3 – 6 times
- 5  7 – 9 times
- 6  10 or more times

**THESE QUESTIONS ARE FOR EVERYONE.**

**THE NEXT FEW QUESTIONS ARE ABOUT SMOKING CIGARETTES.**

20. At the present time, do you consider yourself:

- 1  A chain smoker?
- 2  A heavy smoker?
- 3  A light smoker?
- 4  An occasional smoker?
- 5  An ex-smoker?
- 6  A non-smoker?

21. Have you **ever** smoked even part of a cigarette?

- 1  No
- 2  Yes, just a few puffs
- 3  Yes, I have smoked fewer than 10 cigarettes in my life
- 4  Yes, I have smoked more than 10 but fewer than 100 cigarettes in my life
- 5  Yes, I have smoked more than 100 cigarettes in my life

22. Have you smoked cigarettes in the last **twelve months**?

- 1  Yes
- 2  No

23. Have you smoked cigarettes in the last **four weeks**?

- 1  Yes
- 2  No

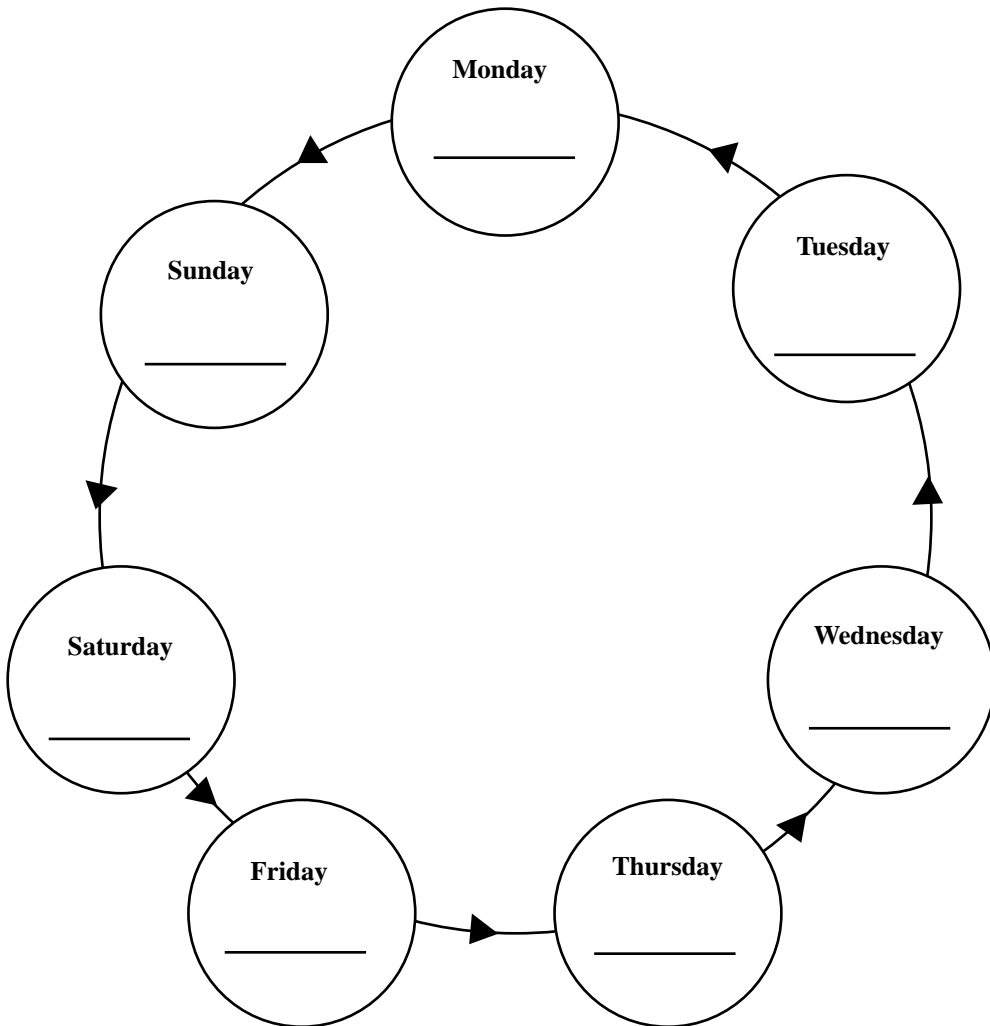
24. This question is about the number of cigarettes you had during the last **seven days**, including yesterday.

*Put a tick near **yesterday**. Then in the space provided, write the number of cigarettes you smoked yesterday. If you didn't smoke any cigarettes, put in '0'. Start filling in the spaces beginning with yesterday, and follow the arrows.*

**Answer for every day of the week.**

*Write in the circle the number of cigarettes you smoked each day.*

*Put '0' for each day you didn't smoke any cigarettes.*



25. Do you think you will be smoking cigarettes this time next year?

- 1  Certain **not** to be smoking  
 2  Very **unlikely** to be smoking  
 3  **Unlikely** to be smoking  
 4  Can't decide how likely  
 5  Likely to be smoking  
 6  Very likely to be smoking  
 7  Certain to be smoking

26. Have you **ever** smoked even part of a cigar?

- 1  No  
 2  Yes, a few puffs but not as much as one cigar  
 3  Yes, I have smoked at least one cigar in my life

**QUESTIONS 27, 28 AND 29 ARE ONLY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE SMOKED A CIGARETTE IN THE PAST WEEK.**

**IF YOU HAVE NOT SMOKED A CIGARETTE IN THE PAST WEEK, GO TO QUESTION 30.**

27. (a) What brand of cigarettes do you usually smoke?

*Tick the box near the brand you **usually** smoke. If that brand is not listed here, tick the box next to 'Other' and write the name of the brand in the space provided.*

- |                             |                 |                             |                  |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|------------------|
| 01 <input type="checkbox"/> | Alpine          | 10 <input type="checkbox"/> | Peter Jackson    |
| 02 <input type="checkbox"/> | Benson & Hedges | 11 <input type="checkbox"/> | Sterling         |
| 03 <input type="checkbox"/> | Dunhill         | 12 <input type="checkbox"/> | Stradbroke       |
| 04 <input type="checkbox"/> | Escort          | 13 <input type="checkbox"/> | Vogue            |
| 05 <input type="checkbox"/> | Fortune         | 14 <input type="checkbox"/> | Wills Super Mild |
| 06 <input type="checkbox"/> | Holiday         | 15 <input type="checkbox"/> | Winfield         |
| 07 <input type="checkbox"/> | Horizon         | 16 <input type="checkbox"/> | Freedom          |
| 08 <input type="checkbox"/> | Longbeach       | ** <input type="checkbox"/> | Other _____      |
| 09 <input type="checkbox"/> | Marlboro        |                             |                  |

*You should have ticked only **one** box.*

(b) Do the cigarettes you usually smoke come from packets of...?

- 1  20s?
- 2  25s?
- 3  30s?
- 4  35s?
- 5  40s?
- 6  50s?

*You should have ticked only **one** box.*

28. (a) Where, or from whom, **did you get** the **last** cigarette that you smoked?

*Fill in the space beside 'Other' if you can't find your answer.*

*Tick only **one** box.*

- |    | <b>I didn't buy it...</b>  | <b>OR</b> | <b>I bought it at a...</b>                                   |
|----|--|-----------|--|
| 01 | <input type="checkbox"/> My parent(s) gave it to me                          |           | 51 <input type="checkbox"/> Hotel, pub or tavern             |
| 02 | <input type="checkbox"/> My brother or sister gave it to me                  |           | 52 <input type="checkbox"/> Supermarket                      |
| 03 | <input type="checkbox"/> I took it from home without my parent(s) permission |           | 53 <input type="checkbox"/> Newsagency                       |
| 04 | <input type="checkbox"/> Friends gave it to me                               |           | 54 <input type="checkbox"/> Milk bar or delicatessen         |
| 05 | <input type="checkbox"/> I got someone to buy it for me                      |           | 55 <input type="checkbox"/> Convenience store (eg Food Plus) |
| ** | <input type="checkbox"/> Other   |           | 56 <input type="checkbox"/> Tobacconist                      |
|    |  |           | 57 <input type="checkbox"/> Take-away food shop              |
|    |  |           | 58 <input type="checkbox"/> Petrol station                   |
|    |  |           | ** <input type="checkbox"/> Other                            |

*You should have ticked only **one** box.*

(b) If you *bought* your last cigarette, was it from a coin-operated (vending) machine?

- 1  Yes
- 2  No

29. (a) Sometimes people break open a packet of cigarettes and sell single cigarettes. In the last **four weeks**, have you bought cigarettes that were **not in a full packet** (for example, buying one or more cigarette(s) at a time)?

- 1  Yes     **Go to QUESTION 29(b)**
- 2  No     **Go to QUESTION 30**



- (b) Thinking of the last time you **bought** cigarettes that were **not in a full packet**, who did you buy the cigarette(s) from?

- 1  I bought the cigarette(s) at a shop  
 2  I bought the cigarette(s) from a friend or relative  
 3  I bought the cigarette(s) from someone else

**THE NEXT QUESTIONS ARE FOR EVERYONE AND ARE ABOUT OTHER THINGS YOU MIGHT USE.**

For **each** substance, tick the box which shows how many times you have used the substance during the specified time period. There should only be one tick for each line of boxes.

30. How many times, if ever, have you used or taken painkillers/analgesics such as 'Disprin', 'Panadol', 'Aspro', **for any reason**:

- |                                     | None                       | Once or twice              | 3-5 times                  | 6-9 times                  | 10-19 times                | 20-39 times                | 40 or more times           |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| (a) In the <b>last week</b> ?       | 1 <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 <input type="checkbox"/> | 3 <input type="checkbox"/> | 4 <input type="checkbox"/> | 5 <input type="checkbox"/> | 6 <input type="checkbox"/> | 7 <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (b) In the <b>last four weeks</b> ? | 1 <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 <input type="checkbox"/> | 3 <input type="checkbox"/> | 4 <input type="checkbox"/> | 5 <input type="checkbox"/> | 6 <input type="checkbox"/> | 7 <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (c) In the <b>last year</b> ?       | 1 <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 <input type="checkbox"/> | 3 <input type="checkbox"/> | 4 <input type="checkbox"/> | 5 <input type="checkbox"/> | 6 <input type="checkbox"/> | 7 <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (d) In your <b>lifetime</b> ?       | 1 <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 <input type="checkbox"/> | 3 <input type="checkbox"/> | 4 <input type="checkbox"/> | 5 <input type="checkbox"/> | 6 <input type="checkbox"/> | 7 <input type="checkbox"/> |

31. How many times, if ever, have you used or taken sleeping tablets, tranquillisers or sedatives, such as 'Rohies', 'Rohypnol', 'Barbs', 'Valium' or 'Serepax', **other than for medical reasons**:

- |                                     | None                       | Once or twice              | 3-5 times                  | 6-9 times                  | 10-19 times                | 20-39 times                | 40 or more times           |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| (a) In the <b>last week</b> ?       | 1 <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 <input type="checkbox"/> | 3 <input type="checkbox"/> | 4 <input type="checkbox"/> | 5 <input type="checkbox"/> | 6 <input type="checkbox"/> | 7 <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (b) In the <b>last four weeks</b> ? | 1 <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 <input type="checkbox"/> | 3 <input type="checkbox"/> | 4 <input type="checkbox"/> | 5 <input type="checkbox"/> | 6 <input type="checkbox"/> | 7 <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (c) In the <b>last year</b> ?       | 1 <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 <input type="checkbox"/> | 3 <input type="checkbox"/> | 4 <input type="checkbox"/> | 5 <input type="checkbox"/> | 6 <input type="checkbox"/> | 7 <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (d) In your <b>lifetime</b> ?       | 1 <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 <input type="checkbox"/> | 3 <input type="checkbox"/> | 4 <input type="checkbox"/> | 5 <input type="checkbox"/> | 6 <input type="checkbox"/> | 7 <input type="checkbox"/> |

32. (a) How many times, if ever, have you smoked or used marijuana/cannabis (grass, hash, dope, weed, mull, pot, a joint):

- |                                     | None                       | Once or twice              | 3-5 times                  | 6-9 times                  | 10-19 times                | 20-39 times                | 40 or more times           |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| (a) In the <b>last week</b> ?       | 1 <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 <input type="checkbox"/> | 3 <input type="checkbox"/> | 4 <input type="checkbox"/> | 5 <input type="checkbox"/> | 6 <input type="checkbox"/> | 7 <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (b) In the <b>last four weeks</b> ? | 1 <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 <input type="checkbox"/> | 3 <input type="checkbox"/> | 4 <input type="checkbox"/> | 5 <input type="checkbox"/> | 6 <input type="checkbox"/> | 7 <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (c) In the <b>last year</b> ?       | 1 <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 <input type="checkbox"/> | 3 <input type="checkbox"/> | 4 <input type="checkbox"/> | 5 <input type="checkbox"/> | 6 <input type="checkbox"/> | 7 <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (d) In your <b>lifetime</b> ?       | 1 <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 <input type="checkbox"/> | 3 <input type="checkbox"/> | 4 <input type="checkbox"/> | 5 <input type="checkbox"/> | 6 <input type="checkbox"/> | 7 <input type="checkbox"/> |

***If you have NOT used marijuana/cannabis in the last year, go to QUESTION 33.***

(b) In the **last year**, did you use any other substance or substances **on the same occasion that you used** marijuana/cannabis?

*Tick **all** that apply.*

- 01  Tobacco
- 02  Alcohol
- 03  Painkillers/analgesics
- 04  Hallucinogens (eg LSD, acid, trips, Magic Mushrooms)
- 05  Amphetamines (eg speed, uppers, MDA, Dex, Dexamphetamines, ox blood)
- 06  Ecstasy (XTC, E, MDMA, ecci, X)
- \*\*  Other (what substance?) \_\_\_\_\_
- 07  I did not use any other substance on the same occasion

*You should have ticked **all** that apply.*

33. How many times, if ever, have you used or taken steroids, ‘Muscle’, or ‘roids’ **without a doctor’s prescription** in an attempt to make you better at sport, to increase muscle size or to improve your general appearance:

	None	Once or twice	3-5 times	6-9 times	10-19 times	20-39 times	40 or more times
(a) In the <b>last week</b> ?	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>	6 <input type="checkbox"/>	7 <input type="checkbox"/>
(b) In the <b>last four weeks</b> ?	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>	6 <input type="checkbox"/>	7 <input type="checkbox"/>
(c) In the <b>last year</b> ?	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>	6 <input type="checkbox"/>	7 <input type="checkbox"/>
(d) In your <b>lifetime</b> ?	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>	6 <input type="checkbox"/>	7 <input type="checkbox"/>

34. How many times, if ever, have you *deliberately sniffed* (inhaled) from spray cans or sniffed things like glue, paint, petrol or thinners in order to get high or for the way it makes you feel:

**This does not include sniffing ‘white-out’, liquid paper, textas or pens.**

	None	Once or twice	3-5 times	6-9 times	10-19 times	20-39 times	40 or more times
(a) In the <b>last week</b> ?	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>	6 <input type="checkbox"/>	7 <input type="checkbox"/>
(b) In the <b>last four weeks</b> ?	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>	6 <input type="checkbox"/>	7 <input type="checkbox"/>
(c) In the <b>last year</b> ?	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>	6 <input type="checkbox"/>	7 <input type="checkbox"/>
(d) In your <b>lifetime</b> ?	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>	6 <input type="checkbox"/>	7 <input type="checkbox"/>

35. (a) How many times, if ever, have you used or taken amphetamines (eg speed, uppers, MDA, Ritalin, 'Dex', Dexamphetamine, ox blood) **other than for medical reasons**:

	None	Once or twice	3-5 times	6-9 times	10-19 times	20-39 times	40 or more times
(a) In the <b>last week</b> ?	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>	6 <input type="checkbox"/>	7 <input type="checkbox"/>
(b) In the <b>last four weeks</b> ?	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>	6 <input type="checkbox"/>	7 <input type="checkbox"/>
(c) In the <b>last year</b> ?	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>	6 <input type="checkbox"/>	7 <input type="checkbox"/>
(d) In your <b>lifetime</b> ?	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>	6 <input type="checkbox"/>	7 <input type="checkbox"/>

***If you have NOT used amphetamines in the last year, go to QUESTION 36(a).***

- (b) In the **last year**, did you use any other substance or substances **on the same occasion that you used** amphetamines (eg speed, uppers, MDA, Dex, Dexamphetamine, ox blood etc)?

*Tick all that apply.*

- 01  Tobacco
- 02  Alcohol
- 03  Painkillers/analgesics
- 04  Hallucinogens (eg LSD, acid, trips, Magic Mushrooms)
- 05  Marijuana/cannabis
- 06  Ecstasy (XTC, E, MDMA, ecci, X)
- \*\*  Other (what substance?)
- 07  I did not use any other substance on the same occasion

*You should have ticked all that apply.*

36. (a) How many times, if ever, have you used or taken 'ecstasy' or 'XTC' (E, MDMA, Eccci, X):

	None	Once or twice	3-5 times	6-9 times	10-19 times	20-39 times	40 or more times
(a) In the <b>last week</b> ?	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>	6 <input type="checkbox"/>	7 <input type="checkbox"/>
(b) In the <b>last four weeks</b> ?	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>	6 <input type="checkbox"/>	7 <input type="checkbox"/>
(c) In the <b>last year</b> ?	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>	6 <input type="checkbox"/>	7 <input type="checkbox"/>
(d) In your <b>lifetime</b> ?	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>	6 <input type="checkbox"/>	7 <input type="checkbox"/>

***If you have NOT used ecstasy in the last year, go to QUESTION 37.***

(b) In the **last year**, did you use any other substance or substances **on the same occasion that you used** ecstasy (E, XTC)?

*Tick all that apply.*

- 01  Tobacco
- 02  Alcohol
- 03  Painkillers/analgesics
- 04  Hallucinogens (eg LSD, acid, trips, Magic Mushrooms)
- 05  Amphetamines (eg speed, uppers, MDA, Dex, Dexamphetamines, ox blood)
- 06  Marijuana/cannabis
- \*\*  Other (what substance?)
- 07  I did not use any other substance on the same occasion

*You should have ticked all that apply.*

37. How many times, if ever, have you used or taken cocaine:

	None	Once or twice	3-5 times	6-9 times	10-19 times	20-39 times	40 or more times
(a) In the <b>last week</b> ?	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>	6 <input type="checkbox"/>	7 <input type="checkbox"/>
(b) In the <b>last four weeks</b> ?	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>	6 <input type="checkbox"/>	7 <input type="checkbox"/>
(c) In the <b>last year</b> ?	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>	6 <input type="checkbox"/>	7 <input type="checkbox"/>
(d) In your <b>lifetime</b> ?	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>	6 <input type="checkbox"/>	7 <input type="checkbox"/>

38. How many times, if ever, have you used or taken heroin (smack, horse, skag), or other opiates (narcotics) such as methadone, morphine or pethidine **other than for medical reasons**:

	None	Once or twice	3-5 times	6-9 times	10-19 times	20-39 times	40 or more times
(a) In the <b>last week</b> ?	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>	6 <input type="checkbox"/>	7 <input type="checkbox"/>
(b) In the <b>last four weeks</b> ?	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>	6 <input type="checkbox"/>	7 <input type="checkbox"/>
(c) In the <b>last year</b> ?	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>	6 <input type="checkbox"/>	7 <input type="checkbox"/>
(d) In your <b>lifetime</b> ?	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>	6 <input type="checkbox"/>	7 <input type="checkbox"/>

39. (a) How many times, if ever, have you used or taken hallucinogens (eg LSD, 'acid', 'trips', Magic Mushrooms, Datura, Angel's Trumpet):

	None	Once or twice	3-5 times	6-9 times	10-19 times	20-39 times	40 or more times
(a) In the <b>last week</b> ?	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>	6 <input type="checkbox"/>	7 <input type="checkbox"/>
(b) In the <b>last four weeks</b> ?	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>	6 <input type="checkbox"/>	7 <input type="checkbox"/>
(c) In the <b>last year</b> ?	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>	6 <input type="checkbox"/>	7 <input type="checkbox"/>
(d) In your <b>lifetime</b> ?	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>	6 <input type="checkbox"/>	7 <input type="checkbox"/>

*If you have NOT used hallucinogens in the last year, go to QUESTION 40.*

(b) In the last year, what forms of hallucinogens did you use?

*Tick **all** that apply.*

- 1  Tabs  
 2  Liquids  
 3  Magic Mushrooms  
 4  Datura / Angel's Trumpet  
 5  Other (what forms?)

(c) In the **last year**, did you use any other substance or substances **on the same occasion that you used** hallucinogens (eg LSD, 'acid', Magic Mushrooms)?

*Tick **all** that apply.*

- 01  Tobacco  
 02  Alcohol  
 03  Painkillers/analgesics  
 04  Marijuana/cannabis  
 05  Amphetamines (eg speed, uppers, MDA, Dex, Dexamphetamines, ox blood)  
 06  Ecstasy (XTC, E, MDMA, ecci, X)  
 \*\*  Other (what substance?)  
 07  I did not use any other substance on the same occasion

*You should have ticked **all** that apply.*

**THESE QUESTIONS ARE FOR EVERYONE.**

40. **During 1998** (last year), did you have any lessons or parts of lessons at school that were about **smoking**?

- 1  No, not even part of a lesson  
 2  Yes, part of a lesson  
 3  Yes, one lesson  
 4  Yes, more than one lesson

41. **During 1998** (last year), did you have any lessons or parts of lessons at school that were about **drinking**?

- 1  No, not even part of a lesson  
 2  Yes, part of a lesson  
 3  Yes, one lesson  
 4  Yes, more than one lesson

42. **During 1998** (last year), did you have any lessons or parts of lessons at school that were about **illicit drugs** such as marijuana, ecstasy, heroin, amphetamines, hallucinogens, cocaine?

- 1  No, not even part of a lesson  
 2  Yes, part of a lesson  
 3  Yes, one lesson  
 4  Yes, more than one lesson

*Remember, 1998 was **last** year.*

**THE NEXT FEW QUESTIONS ARE ABOUT SOME OTHER TOPICS.**

43. You only get skin cancer if you get burnt often.

- 1  True  
 2  False

44. Most skin cancer is caused by ultraviolet radiation (UVR) from the sun.

- 1  True  
 2  False

45. **During 1998** (that is **last year**), did you have any lessons or parts of lessons at school that were about **skin cancer** or **protection from the sun**?

- 1  No, not even part of a lesson  
 2  Yes, part of a lesson  
 3  Yes, one lesson  
 4  Yes, more than one lesson

46. Over the last summer, did you get sunburn which was sore or tender the next day?

- 1  Yes, just once  
 2  Yes, 2 or 3 times  
 3  Yes, 4 or more times  
 4  No, not at all

47. (a) Have you **ever** had severe sunburn, which has blistered?

- 1  Yes **Go to QUESTION 47(b)**  
 2  No **Go to QUESTION 48**

(b) **If yes**, how long ago were you severely sunburnt?

- 1  Last summer  
 2  1 to 2 years ago  
 3  2 to 5 years ago  
 4  More than 5 years ago

48. What type of hat do you most often wear on a sunny day in summer?
- 1  Wide brimmed hat
  - 2  Narrow brimmed hat
  - 3  Legionnaire hat
  - 4  Cap
  - 5  Sun-visor
  - 6  Other (what kind?) \_\_\_\_\_
  - 7  None
49. What is the SPF (Sun Protection Factor) of the sunscreen you usually use on a sunny day in summer?
- 1  I don't use sunscreen
  - 2  SPF 8 or lower
  - 3  SPF 12
  - 4  SPF 15
  - 5  SPF 30+
  - 6  Can't remember / don't know
50. Suppose your skin was exposed to **strong** sunshine at the **beginning** of summer with no protection at all. If you stayed in the sun for 30 minutes, would your skin:
- 1  Just burn or go red
  - 2  Burn or go red first, then tan afterwards
  - 3  Just tan
  - 4  Nothing would happen because I was born with dark skin
51. Do you like to get a suntan?
- 1  No
  - 2  Yes, a light tan
  - 3  Yes, a moderate tan
  - 4  Yes, a dark tan
  - 5  Yes, a very dark tan

52. **Thinking about sunny days in summer, when you are in the sun for an hour or more between 11 am and 3 pm:**

- |     |  | Never                      | Rarely                     | Sometimes                  | Usually                    | Always                     |
|-----|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| (a) | How often would you wear a hat?  | 1 <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 <input type="checkbox"/> | 3 <input type="checkbox"/> | 4 <input type="checkbox"/> | 5 <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (b) | How often would you wear clothes covering most of your body (including arms and legs)?             | 1 <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 <input type="checkbox"/> | 3 <input type="checkbox"/> | 4 <input type="checkbox"/> | 5 <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (c) | How often would you deliberately wear less or briefer clothing so as to get some sun on your skin? | 1 <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 <input type="checkbox"/> | 3 <input type="checkbox"/> | 4 <input type="checkbox"/> | 5 <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (d) | How often would you wear maximum protection sunscreen (SPF 15, or higher)?                         | 1 <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 <input type="checkbox"/> | 3 <input type="checkbox"/> | 4 <input type="checkbox"/> | 5 <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (e) | How often would you wear sunglasses?   | 1 <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 <input type="checkbox"/> | 3 <input type="checkbox"/> | 4 <input type="checkbox"/> | 5 <input type="checkbox"/> |

**When outside for an hour or more on a sunny summer day between 11am and 3pm:**

- |     |   | Never                      | Rarely                     | Sometimes                  | Usually                    | Always                     |
|-----|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| (f) | How often would you stay mainly in the shade? | 1 <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 <input type="checkbox"/> | 3 <input type="checkbox"/> | 4 <input type="checkbox"/> | 5 <input type="checkbox"/> |

**Thinking about sunny days in summer between 11 am and 3 pm:**

- |     |  | Never                      | Rarely                     | Sometimes                  | Usually                    | Always                     |
|-----|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| (g) | How often would you spend most of the time inside? | 1 <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 <input type="checkbox"/> | 3 <input type="checkbox"/> | 4 <input type="checkbox"/> | 5 <input type="checkbox"/> |

*Thank you very much for your help.*