

DRUG USE

in the Australian workforce:

Prevalence, patterns, & implications

Ken Pidd

Victoria Shtangey

Ann Roche



Findings from a secondary analysis of 2004 NDSHS data



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NCETA

*Australia's National Research Centre
on AOD Workforce Development*

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents findings from a secondary analysis of the 2004 National Drug Strategy Household Survey (NDSHS) undertaken by the National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction (NCETA). It represents the most comprehensive examination of the prevalence and patterns drug use among the Australian workforce to date. The report forms part of a wider program of work by NCETA examining various aspects of alcohol and drug (AOD) use by the Australian workforce and the identification of strategies for addressing AOD-related problems. This is a companion report to NCETA's secondary analyses of 2004 and 2001 NDSHS data on alcohol use by the Australian workforce.

The NDSHS

The NDSHS is conducted every three years. The data analysed here was obtained from the 2004 NDSHS. The national sample for the 2004 survey was 29,445. The NDSHS utilises a stratified sampling procedure that allows for national representativeness, and weighted numbers are provided in this report that correspond to the national equivalent in the survey samples.

Data derived from the NDSHS are conservative in nature and are likely to underestimate the actual level of drug use in the community. This notwithstanding, the findings presented here are the most detailed and comprehensive that are available on drug use by the Australian workforce.

Previous research concerning the drug use of Australian workers has largely been restricted to a small number of studies that have focused on specific industries and occupations. This secondary data analysis of a large scale national survey provides unique insight into drug use among the Australian workforce as a whole, and by specific industry and occupational groups, and it allows for assessment of potential risks to workplace safety and productivity and worker-wellbeing from a national perspective.

This report contains data that can be used to inform appropriate policies and interventions at national and local levels.

Demographic Profile of respondents

- 51.2% (14,851) of NDSHS respondents were employed
- 50.2% of employed respondents were female and the largest proportion of workers (26%) was aged 40-49 years
- the majority of employed respondents were Australian born (77.9%), non-Indigenous (98.7%), city residents (64.6%), had no dependent children (57.4%), spoke English at home (96%), and were married or lived with a partner (65%)
- the largest proportion of employed respondents resided in New South Wales (26.8%)
- one in four (24.7%) had a university education
- nearly one in three (30.1%) employed respondents reported an income of \$60,000-\$99,999.

Key Findings

Drug use is significantly ($p = 0.000$) more prevalent among those in the paid workforce compared to those not in the paid workforce.¹

Percentage of 2004 NDSHS respondents who reported drug use by employment status

	% Employed (95% CI)	% Not in the paid workforce* (95% CI)	% All (95% CI)
Lifetime use	46.8% (45.7-47.8)	26.8% (25.7-27.9)	38.0% (37.3-38.9)
Use in last 12 months	17.5% (16.5-18.4)	12.8% (11.9-13.7)	15.4% (14.7-16.2)
Use in last month	10.4% (9.7-11.2)	7.8% (7.1-8.5)	9.3% (8.7-9.9)

* Note: The category 'not in the paid workforce' includes respondents who were unemployed and looking for work, unable to work, retired, students, those engaged in home duties and any others who were not self-employed or employed for wages or a salary.

Among those in the paid workforce, self-employed workers were less likely to use drugs than workers employed for wages or a salary.

Age and Gender

- male workers in general, were significantly ($p = 0.000$) more likely than female workers to have used drugs in their lifetime, over the past 12 months, or in the last month
- for some industries (e.g., the hospitality industry) and occupations (e.g., professionals) female workers were just as likely to use drugs as their male colleagues
- younger workers were significantly ($p = 0.000$) more likely than older workers to use drugs
- drug use was most prevalent among male workers aged 20-29 years and female workers aged 14-19 years
- workers aged 14-19 years were 13 times more likely to report use of drugs in the past 12 months than workers aged over 60 years.

Workers more likely to use drugs were those who were:

- resident in the Northern Territory
- Indigenous workers
- born in Australia
- mainly spoke English at home
- single
- had no children
- had a high school education or less
- workers with a household income of \$20,000-\$39,000.

Drugs most commonly used

The drugs most commonly used by workers (in descending order) were:

- cannabis
- ecstasy
- methamphetamine/amphetamine
- painkillers/analgesics.

¹ With the exception of the unemployed, who report the highest prevalence of drug use.

Percentage of workers who used drugs in the last 12 months (2004 NDSHS)

	Males	Females	All workers
Cannabis	16.5%	9.4%	13.4%
Ecstasy	5.4%	3.2%	4.4%
Methamphetamine	4.7%	2.9%	3.9%
Painkillers/analgesics	2.7%	2.9%	2.8%

Patterns of drug use

- most workers used only one drug type
- about a third of the workforce engaged in polydrug use (i.e., the use of more than one drug type either concurrently or on separate occasions)
- the drug most commonly used on a daily or weekly basis was cannabis
- the drugs most likely to be used on a weekly basis were cannabis and painkillers/analgesics
- ecstasy or methamphetamine/amphetamine use was less frequent with the majority of workers who used these drugs doing so monthly or less often
- just over 2% of the workforce had injected drugs (other than prescribed medications)
- the drug most commonly injected was methamphetamine/amphetamine.

Industry and occupation differences

Key industry and occupational differences in both the prevalence and patterns of drug use among the workforce were:

- the hospitality industry had the largest proportion of workers who used drugs (31.8%), and the largest proportion of workers who used three of the four drugs most commonly used by workers (i.e., cannabis, ecstasy and methamphetamine/amphetamine)
- hospitality industry workers were also more likely to engage in polydrug use compared to workers employed in other industries
- agricultural workers were more likely than workers in other industries to use cannabis on a daily or weekly basis
- tradespersons were more likely than workers in other occupations to have used drugs and more likely to have used four of the drugs most commonly used by the workforce (i.e., cannabis, ecstasy, methamphetamine/amphetamine and painkillers/analgesics)
- tradespersons were also most likely to engage in polydrug use and the occupation most likely to use cannabis on a daily basis.

Absenteeism

- approximately 1% of the workforce reported drug-related absenteeism
- drug-related absenteeism was concentrated in workers aged 14-19 years
- workers employed in the retail and hospitality industries and unskilled workers had the highest levels of drug-related absenteeism
- male workers were generally more likely to report drug-related absenteeism than female workers, however for workers aged 14-19 years the reverse was true
- polydrug users were more likely to report drug-related absenteeism compared to workers who used only one drug type.

Workplace safety and productivity findings

A small minority of workers reported:

- driving a motor vehicle while under the influence of drugs (4.4%)
- attending work while under the influence of drugs (2.5%)
- usually using drugs at work (1.2%).

Examined by gender and age:

- male workers were more likely than female workers to report engaging in the above activities under the influence of drugs and to use drugs at work
- driving a motor vehicle or attending work under the influence and usually using drugs at work was more prevalent among workers aged 20-29 years compared to other age groups.

This report provides a comprehensive basis upon which to develop tailored workplace prevention and intervention policies and strategies. As noted, the data are conservative and likely to underestimate the overall prevalence of use by the Australian workforce.

The key findings are that prevalence of illicit drug use is highest among young male workers and increasingly very young female workers. The drug most commonly used is cannabis and strategies are clearly warranted to address use of this drug; however, in doing so it is important to be cognisant of the potential for a drug-use displacement effect to occur whereby use of one drug is replaced by a potentially more dangerous drug with a more risky mode of administration, such as methamphetamine.

REPORT OUTLINE

The structure of this report is as follows:

Chapter 1: Introduction

describes the rationale for, and background to, the report including an overview of existing literature and data concerning drug use (other than alcohol and tobacco) among the Australian workforce.

Chapter 2: Methodology

describes 2004 National Drug Strategy Household Survey (NDSHS) measures and methods used in the secondary analysis of the 2004 NDSHS.

Chapter 3: Demographic characteristics of survey respondents

examines the employment status of all 2004 NDSHS respondents and provides a demographic profile of those respondents who are part of the paid workforce.

Chapter 4: Prevalence and patterns of drug use among the workforce

examines the prevalence and patterns of drug use among the Australian workforce. It provides profiles of employed drug users utilising a range of demographic variables including: gender, age groups, marital status, country of birth, dependent children, main language spoken at home, annual household income, employment status, highest educational attainment, and area of residence.

Chapter 5: Differences in drug use by industry and occupation

examines the prevalence and patterns of drug use among different occupational and industry groups.

Chapter 6: Drug use and absenteeism

provides a demographic profile of workers who report drug-related and/or illness/injury absenteeism and examines the relationship between drug use and absenteeism.

Chapter 7: Drug use and risk to workplace safety and productivity

describes the prevalence of four drug-related activities that have potentially negative workplace outcomes: attending work under the influence of drugs, driving a motor vehicle under the influence of drugs, operating hazardous machinery under the influence of drugs, and usually using drugs at work. The chapter also provides an examination of these activities according to demographic, workplace, and drug use characteristics.

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

There has been substantial research that examines drug consumption prevalence and patterns among the Australian population in general, however, very little is known about the prevalence or patterns of illicit drug use among workers (Phillips, 2001) and even less is known about the relationship between the workplace environment and patterns of consumption (Allsop & Pidd, 2001). Identifying the illicit drug consumption patterns of the workforce is important as the use of drugs by workers has implications for the health, safety and welfare of the workforce and the wider public with whom they may have contact. Illicit drug use is not only associated with morbidity and mortality among the Australian population in general (Begg et al., 2007), but also plays a role in workplace fatalities and traumatic injuries (Phillips, 2001). In addition, there is evidence of the impact of illicit drug use on workplace productivity with the cost of drug-related absenteeism being particularly high (Collins, Lapsley, & Marks, 2007; Collins & Lapsley, 1996). Despite the importance of these issues, very little Australian data exists concerning illicit drug use among the workforce.

Identification of the prevalence and nature of illicit drug use among the Australian workforce would allow for an examination of potential health, safety and productivity-related risk and assist with the development of targeted interventions designed to reduce or eliminate this risk. The workplace offers unique opportunities for cost-effective intervention and prevention strategies to address illicit drug-related risk. Employers have substantial leverage over the work-related behaviour of employees, in particular behaviour that influences safety and productivity in the workplace. In addition, industrial relations and occupational health and safety legislation and frameworks currently exist that could be utilised to address drug-related issues relevant to the workplace.

1.2 DRUG USE AND THE AUSTRALIAN WORKFORCE

A search of the relevant literature revealed only a very limited body of work in this area. A total of 13 published and unpublished studies were located (Table 1.1) that addressed drug use among Australian workers and two review papers that discussed five of these studies (Allsop et al., 1997; Phillips, 2001). This body of work is summarised in Table 1.1 and briefly outlined below.

The earliest of these 13 studies (Dudley, Langeluddecke, & Tennant, 1988) surveyed 524 trainee nurses and found 28.5% were current cannabis users, with much smaller proportions ($\leq 3.5\%$) reporting current use of other illicit drugs (Table 1.1). Gender differences and differences between more narrowly defined occupational groups were also observed. Significantly more males than females were cannabis users and trainee psychiatric nurses were more likely than trainee general nurses to use any type of illicit drug, apart from narcotics (Dudley et al., 1988). More recently, Williamson et al. (1992) surveyed 953 long distance truck drivers and found 31.7% sometimes used a 'stay awake' drug to combat fatigue.

In contrast, to these relatively high prevalence rates, Hocking and Soares (1993) surveyed 504 employees of a national telecommunication company and found only 4.5% reported cannabis use.

Hagen et al. (1992) conducted 2 studies. Hagen et al. (1992) conducted a secondary analysis of data collected as part of a large national health survey and found 35% of male workers and 47.5% of female workers used painkillers, while much smaller proportions of males and females used sleeping pills or tranquillisers (Table 1.1). However, Hagen et al.'s results need to be treated with some caution as no distinction was made between medical and non-medical use of these drugs. Their second study involved a survey of 792 workers employed in the health, emergency services, transport, metal fabrication, and hospitality industries which identified only 7% occasionally (once a week or less) used cannabis, 5.3% occasionally used tranquillisers, and smaller proportions of workers occasionally used amphetamines or anti-depressants (Table 1.1). Differences in cannabis use prevalence between occupational groups were also observed with 10.5% of hospital ancillary workers reporting use, while other occupations (e.g., medical professionals) reported no cannabis use (Hagen et al., 1992).

Hensher et al. (1991) surveyed 820 long distance truck drivers and found 46.1% took some form of stimulant at least on some trips, while 8.8% used stimulants on every trip. In addition, prevalence rates varied between more narrowly defined groups within the sample population. Owner-drivers reported the lowest prevalence rates with 7.4% using on every trip and 30.3% using on some trips. In contrast, drivers employed by small companies reported the highest prevalence rates, with 11.5% using on every trip and 48.5% using on some trips (Hensher et al., 1991).

Williamson et al. (2001) surveyed 1,007 long-distance truck drivers and found 22.3% used 'stay awake' drugs to deal with fatigue. As with Hensher et al.'s (1991) earlier study, Williamson et al. (2001) observed substantial differences in drug prevalence rates between more narrowly defined groups within the sample population. Owner-drivers and those employed by companies with more than 50 trucks reported the lowest prevalence rates (29.6% and 29.4% respectively), while those employed by companies with 11-50 trucks and those employed in companies with 10 or less trucks reported higher prevalence rates (36.7% and 33.3% respectively) (Williamson et al., 2001). More recently, Davey et al. (2007) conducted quantitative interviews with 35 long distance truck drivers and found 14 were current users of illicit drugs, of whom 12 used amphetamine type substances and 8 used other illicit drugs.

Two studies examined illicit drug use in the fishing industry. Carruthers et al. (2002) conducted a study that included a survey of 116 fishing industry workers employed on the mid-north coast of Western Australia. Results indicated that a substantial proportion of respondents used illicit drugs while in port and at sea. The most commonly used illicit drug was cannabis, with 65.5% using in port and 40.5% using at sea. Other illicit drug use was less prevalent at sea, however, the use of other illicit drugs was much more prevalent when respondents were in port (Table 1.1). Only a minority of those surveyed reported not using any illicit drug while in port (Carruthers et al., 2002). Similarly, Evans et al. (2005) surveyed South Australian mariculture and seafood industry workers and found 44.2% had used cannabis in the previous 12 months.

A further two studies examined the prevalence of illicit drug use among workers employed in the building and construction industry. Banwell et al. (2006) surveyed 254 building industry workers employed in the Australian Capital Territory and found 31% had used cannabis, 8% had used amphetamines, and 4% had used some form of hallucinogen in the previous 12 months. Prevalence rates of 2% or less were reported for cocaine, steroids, heroin, tranquillisers, barbiturates, and inhalant use in the previous 12 months (Table 1.1). Pidd, Boeckmann et al. (2006) surveyed 300 first year apprentices (aged 15-22 years) employed in the South Australian building industry. Of these, 35% reported using cannabis in the past month, 8.3% reported using some form of stimulant in the past month. Moreover, 6.6% reported using cannabis during work-related hours (before work, morning at work, lunchtime, afternoon at work, and after work but before going home) (Pidd, Boeckmann et al., 2006).

More recently, Roche, Pidd, Bywood and Freeman (2008) utilised data obtained as part of a national survey to determine the prevalence of methamphetamine among workers. Methamphetamine use was reported by 4.0% of workers and gender differences were observed

with a larger proportion of male (4.8%) compared to female workers (3.0%) reporting use. Highest prevalence occurred among 18-29 year old workers (11.2%), those employed in the hospitality (9.5%), construction (5.4%), and transport (5.4%) industries, and those employed as tradespersons (6.5%).

Table 1.1 Research concerning the prevalence of illicit drug use among the Australian workforce 1988-2007

Occupation/industry	Year	Drug type	Prevalence	Main limitations	Reference
1. Trainee nurses (n=524; 79% female)	1988	Current cannabis use Current amphetamine use Current hallucinogen use Current cocaine use Current narcotic use	28.5% 4.5% 3.5% 2.5% 0.6%	Sample limited to trainee nurses	Dudley et al (1988)
2. Long distance truck drivers (n=960; 950M, 6F)	1991	Occasional use of 'stay awake' drugs	31.7%	Sample restricted to one industry Not peer reviewed	Williamson et al (1992)
3. Telecommunication industry workers (n=504; gender not reported)	1992	Cannabis use	4.5%	Sample not randomly selected & restricted to one industry Details of use measure not provided	Hocking & Soares (1993)
4. All workers (n = unknown; gender not reported)	1989-90	Painkiller use in past 2 weeks Sleeping pill use in past 2 weeks Tranquilliser use in past 2 weeks	35% M, 47.5% F 1.7% M, 3.3% F 1% M, 1.4% F	Data not weighted to be representative of national workforce Sample size not reported Not peer reviewed	Hagen et al (1992)
5. 792 workers employed in: Health (n=197; 59M, 138F) Emerg services (n=303; 269M, 33F) Transport (n=198; 191M, 4F) Metal fabrication (n=75; 72M, 3F) Hospitality (n=19; 8M, 11F)	1991	Occasional cannabis use Occasional tranquilliser use Occasional amphetamine use Occasional anti-depressant use	7% 5.3% 1.8% 1.6%	Sample not randomly selected Small samples for some industries Not peer reviewed	Hagen et al (1992)
6. Long distance truck drivers (n=820; 815M, 5F)	1991	Regular amphetamine use Occasional amphetamine use	8.8% 46.1%	Sample restricted to one industry Not peer reviewed	Hensher et al (1992)
7. Long distance truck drivers (n=35; all male)	2007	Current amphetamine use Other amphetamine type drugs Marijuana Cocaine 'Other' drugs	26% 9% 11% 9% 3% (n=1)	Small sample restricted to one industry	Davey et al (2007)
8. Long distance truck drivers (n=1,007; 993M, 14F)	2001	Use of 'stay awake' drug	22.3%	Sample restricted to one industry Potential confounding variables not controlled Not peer reviewed	Williamson et al (2001)

Continued over page

Table 1.1 (continued)

9. Fishing industry workers (n=116; 89% male)	2002	Cannabis use in past 6 months	65.5% in port, 40.5% at sea	Sample not random Small sample size Sample restricted to one industry	Carruthers et al (2002)
		Amphetamine use in past 6 months	20.7% in port, 1.7% at sea		
		LSD use in past 6 months	19% in port, 0.9% at sea		
		Ecstasy use in past 6 months	15.5% in port, 1.7% at sea		
		Cocaine use in past 6 months	10.3% in port, 2.6% at sea		
		Heroin use in past 6 months	9.5% in port, 0% at sea		
		Tranquillisers in past 6 months	4.3% in port, 1.7% at sea		
		Ketamine use in past 6 months	1.7% in port, 0% at sea		
10. Mariculture & seafood industry workers (n=200; gender not reported)	2005	Life time cannabis use Cannabis use in past 12 months	50% 44.2%	Relatively small sample restricted to one industry	Evans et al (2005)
11. Building industry workers (n=254; gender not reported)	2002	Cannabis use in last 12 months	31%	Relatively small sample restricted to unionised workplaces in one industry	Banwell et al (2005)
		Amphetamine use in past 12 months	8.0%		
		Hallucinogen use in past 12 months	4.0%		
		Cocaine use in past 12 months	2.0%		
		Steroid use in past 12 months	2.0%		
		Heroin use in past 12 months	1.0%		
		Tranquilliser use in past 12 months	1.0%		
		Barbiturate use in past 12 months	0.5%		
Inhalant use in past 12 months	0.5%				
12. Building trades apprentices (n=300; 293M, 7F)	2005	Lifetime cannabis use	66.7%	Relatively small sample restricted to young apprentices (aged 15-22 years) employed in one industry	Pidd et al (2006)
		Cannabis use in past 12 months	52.6%		
		Cannabis use in past month	35%		
		Cannabis use in work-related hours	6.6%		
		Lifetime stimulant use	27.3%		
		Stimulant use in past 12 months	20.3%		
		Stimulant use in past month	8.3%		
Stimulant use in work-related hours	0.3% (n=1)				
13. Australian workforce (n=14,851; gender not reported)	2004	Amphetamine/Methamphetamine use in the last 12 months	4.0%	Study restricted to amphetamine/methamphetamine use only	Roche et al (2008)

Note: M=Male
F=Female

In summary, data concerning Australian workers' illicit drug use is restricted to a small number of studies. As much of this research is limited to surveys with relatively small samples from specific industry and occupational groups, few definitive conclusions can be drawn concerning the prevalence and nature of illicit drug use in the Australian workforce in general. However, the following themes have been tentatively identified:

1. five of the eight studies that assessed cannabis use found high levels of use, especially among building trades workers and building apprentices, mariculture workers, fisherman and nurses.
2. substantial use of stimulants was evident in a wide range of industry and occupational groups, including long distance truck drivers.
3. painkillers were also widely used.
4. polydrug use was commonplace.

While there has been some recent research that has used national data sets to examine patterns of alcohol consumption among the Australian workforce (Berry, Pidd, Roche, & Harrison, 2007; Pidd, Berry et al., 2006), similar research concerning illicit drug use has been restricted to one study focusing on methamphetamine use (Roche et al., 2008) and one study that focused on over-the-counter medications (Hagen et al., 1992).

In order to address this limitation, a study involving a secondary analysis of data collected as part of the 2004 National Drug Strategy Household Survey (NDSHS) was undertaken. The aim of this study was to identify the prevalence and nature of illicit drug use among the Australian workforce. The 2004 NDSHS surveyed a large number of Australians using a sampling method designed so results would be representative of the total Australian population. While the survey respondents included working and non-working Australians, employment-related questions in the survey allowed for the identification of those in paid employment and the categorisation of these employed respondents by occupation and industry.

1.3 AIM

The purpose of this report is to present the findings of a secondary analysis of selected data collected as part of the 2004 National Drug Strategy Household Survey (NDSHS). This secondary analysis was conducted to provide detailed data concerning:

- the prevalence and patterns of drug use among the Australian workforce in general
- the prevalence and patterns of drug use among the workforce according to demographic factors such as age, gender and location
- the prevalence and patterns of drug use among occupational and industry groups
- the relationship between worker's drug use and negative consequences for the workplace including the absenteeism and risk to safety and productivity.

Such data concerning the prevalence, patterns, and nature of illicit drug use among the Australian workforce would allow for the identification of drug-related risk to safety and productivity and the identification of 'at risk' workforce groups. This in turn would allow for the development of cost-effective and targeted interventions that aim to reduce or minimise drug use and risk to safety and productivity, and provide some direction for future research that aims to achieve a more comprehensive understanding of the relationship between drug use and the Australian workplace.

CHAPTER 2

METHODOLOGY

2.1 BACKGROUND

In order to identify the prevalence and patterns of illicit drug use among the Australian workforce, secondary analyses were conducted using selected data from the 2004 National Drug Strategy Household Survey (NDSHS). The focus of the 2004 NDSHS was on awareness, attitudes and behaviour relating to drug use, including alcohol, tobacco, and illicit drugs.

The main aims of the secondary analyses reported here were to identify the prevalence and nature of illicit drug use by employed respondents to the 2004 NDSHS and to determine any association between this use and demographic, individual, or occupational factors. Because most questions asked in this survey did not specifically relate to drug consumption that occurs *in* the workplace, an accurate assessment of workplace prevalence could not be determined. The analyses conducted allowed only approximate inferences to be made about potential links between drug use and selected demographic, individual, and occupational factors.

2.2 SCOPE

A total of 29,445 Australians aged 12 years and older from all Australian States and Territories responded to the 2004 NDSHS. The analyses reported here focus on employed respondents who were aged 14 years and older.

2.3 SURVEY DESIGN

The 2004 NDSHS used two data collection methods, each of which had a different sample design: drop and collect questionnaires (n=24,109) and computer-assisted telephone interviews (CATI) (n=5,336). The corresponding response rates for these two methods were 47.8% and 37.8%, respectively. A multi-stage stratified sampling methodology was utilised and data were weighted by age, gender, and geographical region to be representative of the total Australian population.

2.4 MEASURES USED

Data obtained from items in the 2004 NDSHS that were relevant to drug use and the workplace, were included in the analyses. The numbering of each item reported below is consistent with that used in the survey. A copy of the survey instrument is available as an appendix to the 2004 National Drug Strategy Household Survey: First results, Appendix 5 (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2005). The measures used in this report were asked of all 29,445 NDSHS respondents and are outlined below:

2.4.1 Demographic measures

- ZZ1: Gender (Male, Female)
- ZZ2: Age (years)

- ZZ3: Marital status (Never married, Widowed, Divorced, Separated, Married/defacto/living with life partner)
- ZZ4: Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander status
- ZZ5a: Country of birth
- ZZ6: Language spoken at home
- ZZ12a: Highest year of primary/secondary school completed
- ZZ14: Highest qualification obtained
- ZZ16: Annual household income
- ZZ17c: Number of dependent children (number of financially dependent children aged 0-14 years)
- ZZ23: Location (postcode/suburb/town).

2.4.2 Drug use measures

Respondents were asked about their lifetime use, use in the last 12 months, use in the last month, use in the last week, and frequency of use in the last 12 months for a range of drugs including:

- G2, G4, G6, G7, G8: Non-medical use of pain killers/analgesics
- H2, H4, H6, H7, H8: Non-medical use of tranquillisers/sleeping pills
- J2, J4, J6, J7, J8: Non-medical use of steroids
- K2, K4, K5, K6, K7: Non-medical use of barbiturates
- L2, L4, L7, L8: Non-medical use of methamphetamine/amphetamine
- M2, M4, M6, M7, M8: Cannabis use
- N2, N4, N6, N7, N8: Heroin
- O2, O4, O6, O7, O8: Methadone
- P2, P4, P6, P7, P8: Cocaine
- Q2, Q4, Q6, Q7, Q8: LSD/Synthetic Hallucinogens
- R2, R4, R6, R7, R8: Ecstasy
- S2, S4, S5, S6, S7: Ketamine
- T2, T4, T5, T6, T7: GHB
- U2, U4, U6, U7, U8: Inhalants
- V2, V5: Non-medically supplied opiates/opioids – (lifetime and past 12 month use only).

As relatively few respondents reported using most drug types, use of the different drug types listed above was categorised into a new variable – *any drug use* – which is the focus of this report.

Respondents were also asked if they had used different types of drugs (1) ever in their life time, (2) in the last 12 months, (3) in the last month and (4) in the last week. In this report data are provided for lifetime, last 12 months and last month use. Data concerning drug use in the last week are not presented due to small sample sizes. Most analyses presented in this report concern drug use during the last 12 months.

2.4.3 Intravenous drug use

- W1: Respondents were asked if they had ever injected any drugs, apart from any that were prescribed to inject.
- W4: Respondents were asked if they had injected any of the following drugs in the last 12 months:
 - Heroin
 - Methadone
 - Other opiates/opioids
 - Methamphetamine/amphetamine
 - Cocaine
 - LSD/hallucinogens
 - Ecstasy
 - Steroids
 - Other drugs.

2.4.4 Employment-related measures

- ZZ8: Current employment status.
(Self-employed, Employed for wages, Salary, or payment in kind, Unemployed and looking for work, Home duties, Student, Retired or on a pension, Unable to work, Other).
- ZZ10: Industry employed in.
Respondents were asked to describe the industry in which they were employed. Responses were then coded using two-digit Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC) codes. These codes were grouped as follows:
 - Agriculture (codes 1–4)
 - Mining (codes 11–15)
 - Manufacturing (codes 21–29)
 - Construction (codes 36–42)
 - Wholesale (codes 45–47)
 - Retail (codes 51–53)
 - Hospitality (code 57)
 - Transport (codes 61–67)
 - Financial services (codes 73–78)
 - Administration (codes 81–82)
 - Education (code 84)
 - Services (codes 71, 86–96).
- ZZ11: Occupation.
Respondents were asked to describe the kind of work they did and their main work duties/tasks. Responses were then coded using two-digit Australian Standard Classification of Occupation (ASCO) codes. These codes were grouped as follows:
 - Managers (codes 11, 12, 13, 33)
 - Professionals (codes 21–32, 34, 39)
 - Tradespersons (codes 41–45)
 - Skilled workers (codes 46–73)
 - Unskilled workers (codes 79–99).

2.4.5 Absenteeism & safety/productivity risk measures

- Y11: Drug-related activities.
Respondents were asked to report the activities they undertook in the last 12 months while under the influence of illicit drugs. Respondents could choose from 10 activities, however, for the purpose of the current analyses only data concerning the following were used:
 - Attended work
 - Drove a motor vehicle
 - Operated hazardous machinery.
- Drug use at work.
For the drugs outlined below, CATI respondents were asked where they usually used the drug and were allowed to select one or more of 11 different locations. Only data concerning drug consumption at the workplace were analysed.
 - G10: Non-medical use of pain killers/analgesics
 - H10: Non-medical use of tranquillisers/sleeping pills
 - J10: Non-medical use of steroids
 - L10: Non-medical use of methamphetamine/amphetamine
 - M10: Cannabis use
 - N10: Heroin
 - O10: Methadone
 - P10: Cocaine
 - Q10: LSD/synthetic hallucinogens
 - R10: Ecstasy
 - U10: Inhalants.
- Z2: Drug-related absenteeism.
Respondents were asked to report the number of days missed (in the past three months) from work, school, Technical and Further Education (TAFE), or university due to their personal use of drugs other than alcohol.
- Z3: Illness/injury absenteeism.
Respondents were asked to report the number of days they had missed (in the past three months) from work, school, TAFE, or university due to any illness or injury.

2.5 STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

Data examined in this report were analysed using Stata version 10.0. Descriptive analyses were used to determine the proportion of respondents that fell into categories of interest. Significance levels of at least .05 were used to examine differences between categories and 95% confidence intervals (CI) are provided for all reported estimates. Univariate odds ratios were produced using logistic regression analyses.

2.5.1 Statistical terms used in this report

A brief description of the statistical terms used in this report is provided in Table 2.1.

Table 2.1 Statistical terms used in this report

Term	Description
N	Sample size (the total number of respondents)
Survey n	The number of respondents to the survey
Weighted n	The number of respondents to the survey weighted to be representative of the total Australian population
%	The estimated percentage
Mean	The mean, or arithmetic mean, refers to the average. It is the sum of a set of values divided by the number of values in that set.
Confidence Intervals (CI)	A confidence interval provides a range of plausible values for the unknown population prevalence on the basis of sample data. It conveys a degree of uncertainty about the precision of the estimated values. A 95% confidence interval means that 95 times out of 100, the estimate will fall between the range (confidence interval) indicated. A wide confidence interval will indicate that the estimated percentages are imprecise and should be treated with caution. 95% confidence intervals are reported around estimates.
Pearson chi-square statistic (<i>F</i> statistic)	The Pearson chi-square statistic is the test of independence used in this report. In Stata, the Rao-Scott second-order correction is applied to the chi-square statistic and then it is converted to the <i>F</i> statistic to determine the <i>p</i> -value. The size of the <i>F</i> statistic determines the <i>p</i> -value. For example a large <i>F</i> statistic (e.g., 300) is much more likely to represent a significant difference compared to a small <i>F</i> statistic (e.g., 3).
<i>p</i> -value	The <i>p</i> -value is the probability that an estimate is accurate and not due to random chance. For example a <i>p</i> -value of .01 means that there is a 99% chance that any difference in alcohol use between populations is a true difference.

2.5.2 Data Interpretation

Caution should be exercised when interpreting some of the results in this report. In some of the tables presented, small cell sizes (i.e. sparse data) are apparent and confidence intervals around the estimates could be large. Caution is especially necessary when interpreting results presented for very small cell sizes (e.g., $n \leq 5$) and when confidence intervals are wide.

In addition, there are some concerns regarding the representiveness of the 2004 NDSHS sample population. In particular, the data obtained by the survey may be a conservative estimate of drug use prevalence rates. The response rate for the 2004 NDSHS is relatively low (47.8% and 37.8% for the two data collection methods) and it is feasible that those who are more likely to use drugs were less likely to complete the survey. Similarly, the 2004 NDSHS sample of employed Australians may not be representative of the Australian workforce in general. Of the employed respondents to the 2004 NDSHS, just over 50% were female and nearly 25% had a university education. According to Australian Bureau of Statistics data, in 2004 only 45% of the workforce were female (ABS, 2004b) and only 19% had a university education (ABS, 2004a). As gender and education level are both negatively associated with drug use (females and those with higher levels of education are less likely to use drugs), the 2004 NDSHS data may underestimate the prevalence of illicit drug use among the workforce.

CHAPTER 3

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS

KEY POINTS

1. 51.2% (14,851) of NDSHS respondents were employed
2. 50.2% of employed respondents were female and the largest proportion of workers (26%) was aged 40-49 years
3. The majority of employed respondents were Australian born (77.9%), non-Indigenous (98.7%), city residents (64.6%), had no children (57.4%), spoke English at home (96%), and were married or lived with a partner (65%)
4. The largest proportion of employed respondents resided in New South Wales (26.8%)
5. One in four (24.7%) employed respondents had a university education
6. Nearly one in three (30.1%) employed respondents reported an income of \$60,000-\$99,999.

3.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter reports on the employment status of all respondents to the 2004 NDSHS and the following demographic characteristics of employed respondents only:

- Gender
- Age
- Marital status
- Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander status
- Country of birth
- Language spoken at home
- Highest educational level obtained
- Annual household income
- Number of dependent children
- Location of residence.

3.2 EMPLOYMENT STATUS

Of the 29,445 Australians who responded to the 2004 NDSHS, just over half (51.2%; n = 14,851) of those aged 14 years and over were self-employed or employed for wages, salary, or payment in kind (Table 3.1).

Table 3.1 Employment status of respondents to the 2004 NDSHS

Employment status	%	Survey n	Weighted n
Self employed	9.9	2,875	1,800,160
Employed for wages, salary or payment in kind	41.3	11,976	7,248,830
Unemployed and looking for work	2.3	675	401,151
Engaged in home duties	8.3	2,411	1,272,652
Student	12.1	3,516	2,339,112
Retired or on a pension	23.0	6,676	3,210,493
Unable to work	1.6	460	246,372
Other	1.5	411	232,015
Total N	100.0	29,000	16,750,785

3.3 LOCATION

Employed respondents were categorised according to location of residence by State/Territory (Table 3.2) and city/country location. The largest proportion of employed respondents resided in NSW. The majority of employed respondents (64.6%, n = 9,582, weighted n = 5,907,762) resided in capital cities, while 35.4% (n = 5,261, weighted n = 3,136,762) resided in country locations.

Table 3.2 Employed respondents to 2004 NDSHS by location of residence

Location by State/Territory	%	Survey n	Weighted n
NSW	26.8	3,979	2,954,953
Sydney	17.2	2,549	1,957,391
NSW Country (excl. ACT)	9.6	1,430	997,562
VIC	21.9	3,249	2,281,242
Melbourne	15.9	2,355	1,678,204
VIC Country	6.0	894	603,038
QLD	19.6	2,904	1,743,814
Brisbane	9.2	1,367	798,138
QLD Country	10.4	1,537	945,676
WA	10.5	1,557	917,762
Perth	7.8	1,151	671,584
WA Country	2.7	406	246,178
SA	7.9	1,176	686,990
Adelaide	5.9	874	507,254
SA Country	2.0	302	179,736
NT	5.3	782	108,610
Darwin	2.6	390	56,911
NT Country	2.6	392	51,699
ACT	4.5	673	156,530
TAS	3.5	523	194,623
Hobart	1.5	223	81,749
TAS Country	2.0	300	112,874
Total N	100.0	14,843	9,044,524

3.4 GENDER AND AGE OF RESPONDENTS

There were slightly more employed female than male respondents and just over half of all employed respondents (50.4%) were aged between 30-59 years (Table 3.3). This contrasts with 2004 Australian Bureau of Statistics data that indicated 44.8% of the workforce were female (ABS, 2004b).

Table 3.3 Age and gender of employed respondents to the NDSHS

	%	Survey n	Weighted n
Gender			
Male	49.8	7,396	5,157,398
Female	50.2	7,447	3,887,126
Age			
14 to 19 years	4.0	585	400,681
20 to 29 years	17.8	2,646	1,843,870
30 to 39 years	24.4	3,623	2,173,697
40 to 49 years	26.0	3,863	2,366,052
50 to 59 years	20.9	3,100	1,699,802
60 years and over	6.9	1,026	560,421
Total N	100.0	14,843	9,044,524

3.5 COUNTRY OF BIRTH, INDIGENOUS STATUS AND LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME

The majority of employed respondents to the 2004 NDSHS were born in Australia, non-Indigenous and English was the main language spoken at home (Table 3.4).

Table 3.4 Country of birth, Indigenous status and main language spoken at home of employed respondents to the 2004 NDSHS

	%	Survey n	Weighted n
Country of birth			
Australia	77.9	11,523	6,921,083
Other	22.1	3,263	2,080,025
Total N*	100.0	14,786	9,001,108
Indigenous status			
Aboriginal	1.1	157	83,195
Torres Strait Islander	0.1	14	10,360
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	0.1	15	6,234
Non-Indigenous	98.7	14,596	8,908,643
Total N*	100.0	14,782	9,008,431
Main language spoken at home			
Non-English	4.0	587	507,903
English	96.0	14,242	8,524,895
Total N*	100.0	14,843	9,032,799

Note: * Total Ns vary due to differences in response rates for each survey item

3.6 EDUCATION LEVEL AND HOUSEHOLD INCOME

Employed respondents were categorised according to highest level of educational attainment and gross annual household income. One in four (24.7%) were university educated and the most frequently reported income range (mode) was \$60,000-\$99,999 (Table 3.5).

Table 3.5 Highest educational level and gross annual household income of employed respondents to the 2004 NDSHS

	%	Survey n	Weighted n
Education level			
High School or less	39.2	5,825	3,548,787
Certificate/Diploma	36.1	5,351	3,366,386
Bachelor Degree	15.6	2,313	1,382,095
Master's Degree or PhD	9.1	1,354	747,256
Total N*	100.0	14,843	9,044,524
Household income			
\$140,000 or above	8.8	1,286	916,877
\$100,000 to \$139,999	14.0	2,040	1,309,145
\$60,000 to \$99,999	30.1	4,381	2,687,235
\$40,000 to \$59,999	19.1	2,780	1,555,479
\$20,000 to \$39,999	12.3	1,785	926,739
Less than \$20,000	2.8	411	192,918
No income provided	13.0	1,890	1,291,414
Total N*	100.0	14,572	8,879,806

Note: *Total Ns vary due to differences in response rates for each survey item

3.7 MARITAL STATUS AND NUMBER OF DEPENDENT CHILDREN

The majority of employed respondents to the 2004 NDSHS were married (or living with a partner) and just over half had no dependent children (Table 3.6).

Table 3.6 Marital status and number of dependent children of employed respondents to the 2004 NDSHS

	%	Survey n	Weighted n
Marital status			
Married (including de facto/partner)	65.0	9,614	6,172,284
Single	22.6	3,350	2,104,112
Divorced	7.3	1,080	427,564
Separated but not divorced	3.7	543	225,342
Widowed	1.4	203	84,629
Total N*	100.0	14,790	9,013,930
Dependent children			
No	57.4	8,463	4,626,115
Yes	42.7	6,295	4,366,790
Total N*	100.0	14,758	8,992,905

Note: *Total Ns vary due to differences in response rates for each survey item

CHAPTER 4

PREVALENCE & PATTERNS OF DRUG USE AMONG THE WORKFORCE

KEY POINTS

1. Drug use is generally more prevalent among those in the paid workforce compared to those not in the paid workforce. However, the unemployed reported the highest prevalence of drug use overall
2. Workers employed for wages or a salary are more likely to use drugs than self-employed workers
3. Male workers were more likely than female workers to use most types of drugs
4. Younger workers were more likely than older workers to use drugs, with use being most prevalent among male workers aged 20-29 years and female workers aged 14-19 years
5. Workers age 14-19 years were more than 13 times more likely, and workers aged 20-29 years were nearly 12 times more likely, to use drugs compared to workers aged 60 or more years
6. Workers residing in the Northern Territory, Indigenous workers, workers born in Australia, and workers who mainly spoke English at home were more likely than other workers to use drugs
7. Workers who were single, workers who had no children, workers with a high school education or less, and workers with a household income of \$20,000-\$39,000 were more likely to use drugs compared to other workers
8. The drug most commonly used by the workforce was cannabis, followed by ecstasy, methamphetamine/amphetamine and painkillers/analgesics
9. The drug most likely to be used by workers on a daily basis was cannabis
10. The drugs most likely to be used by workers on a weekly basis were cannabis and painkillers/analgesics
11. The majority of employed ecstasy or methamphetamine/amphetamine users used monthly or less often
12. One in three drug using workers engaged in polydrug use
13. A small minority of the workforce (0.4%) had injected drugs in the last 12 months. The drug most commonly injected was methamphetamine/amphetamine.

4.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter reports the prevalence and patterns of drug use among employed respondents to the 2004 NDSHS who were aged 14 years and over. The socio-demographic profiles of those who used drugs in the last 12 months are also provided in order to identify workforce sub-populations who may be at higher risk of drug use. This in turn may provide useful data for informing policy, planning and interventions.

The 2004 NDSHS asked about the use of a range of drugs including cannabis, methamphetamine, hallucinogens, ecstasy, painkillers, tranquillisers, cocaine, inhalants, opiates, barbiturates, ketamine, heroin, GHB, and methadone, and injecting drug use. These questions allowed for an examination of the types of drugs used, frequency of use and polydrug use (i.e., the use of more than one drug).

4.2 DRUG USE PREVALENCE BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS

Prevalence of the use of any drugs² for three measures (lifetime use, use in the last 12 months and use in the last month) for all respondents to the 2004 NDSHS aged 14 years and over is shown in Table 4.1. There were significant differences in lifetime use of any drugs ($F_{1, 1823} = 677.7, p = 0.000$), the use of any drugs in the last 12 months ($F_{1, 1823} = 78.8, p = 0.000$) and the use of any drugs in the last month ($F_{1, 1823} = 37.8, p = 0.000$) between respondents in the paid workforce and those not in the paid workforce. For all three measures, a larger proportion of employed respondents reported drug use compared to those not in the paid workforce (Table 4.1).

Table 4.1 Prevalence of any drug use over lifetime, in the last 12 months and in the last month among employed 2004 NDSHS respondents and those not in the paid workforce (aged 14 years and over)

	Employed	Not in workforce	All
Lifetime use of any drugs			
%	46.8	26.8	38.0
95% CI	(45.7-47.8)	(25.7-27.9)	(37.3-38.9)
Survey n	7,127	3,536	10,663
Weighted n	4,187,546	1,859,778	6,047,324
Use of any drugs in last 12 months			
%	17.5	12.8	15.4
95% CI	(16.5-18.4)	(11.9-13.7)	(14.7-16.2)
Survey n	2,568	1,606	4,174
Weighted n	1,557,787	885,467	2,443,254
Use of any drugs in last month			
%	10.4	7.8	9.3
95% CI	(9.7-11.2)	(7.1-8.5)	(8.7-9.9)
Survey n	1,510	981	2,491
Weighted n	929,324	537,917	1,467,241

Significant differences in lifetime use of any drugs ($F_{6.7, 12232} = 185.4, p = 0.000$), the use of any drugs in the last 12 months ($F_{6.6, 12063} = 61.7, p = 0.000$) and the use of any drugs in the last month ($F_{6.7, 12259} = 39.9, p = 0.000$) were observed according to employment status (Table 4.2).

A significantly smaller proportion of self-employed respondents (15.7%) reported using any drugs in the past 12 months, compared to those employed for wages and salaries (17.9%; $F_{1, 1797} = 5.3, p = 0.02$). Among those not in the paid workforce, the smallest proportions of respondents reporting any drug use were retirees and those performing home duties, while the largest proportions reporting use were those unable to work and the unemployed (Table 4.2).

² Use of any drugs refers to the use of any of the different drug types included in the NDSHS. These are listed in Chapter 2 of this report - Methodology.

Table 4.2 Prevalence of any drug use over lifetime, in the last 12 months and in the last month among employed 2004 NDSHS respondents by employment status

Employment status		Use of any drugs		
		Ever in life time	12 months	Last month
Self-employed	%	43.8	15.7	9.5
	95% CI	(41.7-46.0)	(14.1-17.5)	(8.3-10.9)
	Survey n	1,270	449	272
	Weighted n	775,743	276,829	167,365
Employed	%	47.5	17.9	10.6
	95% CI	(46.3-48.7)	(16.9-18.9)	(9.8-11.5)
	Survey n	5,857	2,119	1,238
	Weighted n	3,411,803	1,280,957	761,959
Unemployed	%	53.5	31.8	22.6
	95% CI	(48.6-58.4)	(27.2-36.9)	(18.7-27.1)
	Survey n	358	200	141
	Weighted n	211,371	125,426	88,608
Home duties	%	37.1	11.3	7.5
	95% CI	(34.9-39.3)	(9.9-12.8)	(6.4-8.9)
	Survey n	970	303	202
	Weighted n	463,954	141,159	93,921
Student	%	31.4	19.8	10.4
	95% CI	(29.2-33.7)	(18.0-21.8)	(9.1-11.9)
	Survey n	891	539	282
	Weighted n	558,470	351,960	184,450
Retired/Pension	%	13.6	5.7	3.4
	95% CI	(12.4-14.8)	(4.9-6.6)	(2.9-4.1)
	Survey n	912	388	234
	Weighted n	415,250	173,679	104,591
Unable to work	%	47.3	22.5	16.6
	95% CI	(41.4-53.3)	(18.0-27.8)	(12.6-21.6)
	Survey n	225	105	76
	Weighted n	112,968	53,563	39,320
Other	%	44.5	18.1	12.4
	95% CI	(38.5-50.6)	(13.6-23.6)	(8.5-17.7)
	Survey n	180	71	46
	Weighted n	97,765	39,681	27,027
All persons	%	38.0	15.5	9.3
	95% CI	(37.2-38.9)	(14.7-16.2)	(8.7-9.9)
	Survey n	10,663	4,174	2,491
	Weighted n	6,047,324	2,443,254	1,467,241

Variations in drug use prevalence according to employment status, compared to the mean prevalence level for all respondents to the 2004 NDSHS, are shown in Figure 4.1. The prevalence of drug use among unemployed respondents and those unable to work was well above the mean prevalence level and these two groups were more likely than employed and self employed respondents to have used any drugs in the last 12 months.

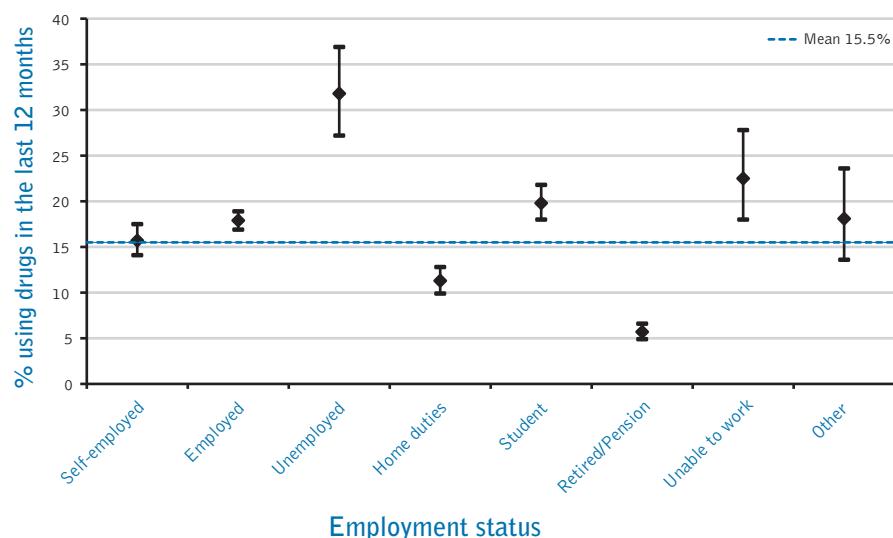


Figure 4.1 Drug use in the last 12 months by employment status of 2004 NDSHS respondents

4.3 DIFFERENCES IN DRUG USE PREVALENCE AMONG THE WORKFORCE

4.3.1 Gender and age differences in drug use among the workforce

There were significant gender differences in the prevalence of drug use among respondents to the 2004 NDSHS. A significantly larger proportion of males, compared to females, reported lifetime use of any drugs ($F_{1, 1823} = 51.7, p = 0.000$), use of any drugs in the last 12 months ($F_{1, 1823} = 85.5, p = 0.000$), and use of any drugs in the last month ($F_{1, 1823} = 74.2, p = 0.000$). The only exception to this was for workers aged 14-19 years where larger proportions of females compared to males reported lifetime use of any drugs, use of any drugs in the last 12 months and the use of any drugs in the last month (Table 4.3). This finding is consistent with 2004 NDSHS data concerning all Australians aged 14-19 years which indicated a larger proportion of females compared to males had used drugs (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2005) and is consistent with a trend for an increasing proportion of females in this age group to use drugs. Gender differences among employed 2004 NDSHS respondents appear more pronounced than gender differences among all respondents.

Significant age differences were observed for lifetime use of any drugs ($F_{4.7, 8517} = 173.2, p = 0.000$), the use of any drugs in the last 12 months ($F_{4.9, 8836} = 153.3, p = 0.000$) and the use of any drugs in the last month ($F_{4.6, 8446} = 78.8, p = 0.000$). Lifetime use peaked in the 20-29 year old age group and then declined, while use in the last 12 months and use in the last month indicated a general trend for use to decline after age 14-19 years (Table 4.3).

Table 4.3 Lifetime use of any drugs, use of any drugs in the last 12 months and the use of any drugs in the last month by age and gender of 2004 NDSHS employed respondents

Age		Lifetime drug use			Drug use in last 12 months			Drug use in last month		
		Females	Males	Persons	Females	Males	Persons	Females	Males	Persons
14-19	%	47.9	41.9	44.3	37.6	33.5	35.2	20.5	17.6	18.8
	95% CI	(40.4-55.5)	(35.2-48.9)	(39.5-49.2)	(30.9-44.7)	(27.2-40.6)	(30.7-39.9)	(15.2-27.0)	(13.0-23.5)	(15.3-22.8)
	Survey n	134	138	272	105	105	210	59	54	113
	Weighted n	77,454	98,816	176,270	60,616	79,133	139,748	32,858	41,469	74,326
20-29	%	57.0	62.5	60.1	24.3	37.5	31.8	12.4	24.2	19.1
	95% CI	(53.7-60.3)	(59.3-65.6)	(57.7-62.5)	(21.7-27.2)	(34.2-41.0)	(29.5-34.1)	(10.5-14.5)	(21.6-27.0)	(17.3-20.9)
	Survey n	863	824	1,687	367	492	859	187	308	495
	Weighted n	452,720	647,165	1,099,884	192,783	386,517	579,300	98,116	248,721	346,837
30-39	%	55.9	62.6	59.8	15.2	24.2	20.5	8.9	15.6	12.8
	95% CI	(53.1-58.6)	(60.0-65.2)	(58.0-61.6)	(13.4-17.3)	(21.9-26.5)	(18.8-22.2)	(7.5-10.5)	(13.3-18.1)	(11.3-14.6)
	Survey n	1,070	1,153	2,223	304	458	762	174	293	467
	Weighted n	495,061	797,800	1,292,861	134,492	307,122	441,614	78,605	197,821	276,426
40-49	%	41.7	50.5	46.5	9.1	14.2	11.9	6.0	8.3	7.3
	95% CI	(38.9-44.5)	(47.6-53.4)	(44.4-48.7)	(7.7-10.7)	(12.4-16.2)	(10.7-13.2)	(4.9-7.4)	(6.8-10.0)	(6.2-8.4)
	Survey n	905	1,020	1,925	205	296	501	126	181	307
	Weighted n	440,288	650,561	1,090,848	96,177	181,616	277,793	63,503	105,821	169,323
50-59	%	21.6	30.7	26.7	4.4	7.1	5.9	2.0	3.7	3.0
	95% CI	(19.4-24.0)	(28.0-33.5)	(24.8-28.7)	(3.4-5.7)	(5.7-8.7)	(4.9-7.0)	(1.4-2.9)	(2.7-5.1)	(2.3-3.8)
	Survey n	368	494	862	80	118	198	42	62	104
	Weighted n	160,242	287,036	447,277	32,455	65,742	98,197	14,685	34,791	49,477
60+	%	13.8	15.5	14.8	3.1	4.4	3.9	1.7	2.9	2.4
	95% CI	(10.5-17.8)	(12.6-18.8)	(12.7-17.2)	(1.7-5.7)	(2.8-6.9)	(2.7-5.6)	(0.8-3.5)	(1.6-5.0)	(1.5-3.8)
	Survey n	64	94	158	13	25	38	8	16	24
	Weighted n	30,672	49,732	80,404	6,920	14,214	21,135	3,686	9,248	12,934
All	%	42.9	49.7	46.8	13.6	20.4	17.5	7.6	12.6	10.4
	95% CI	(41.5-44.3)	(48.3-51.1)	(45.7-47.8)	(12.6-14.6)	(19.1-21.7)	(16.5-18.4)	(6.8-8.4)	(11.6-13.7)	(9.7-11.2)
	Survey n	3,404	3,723	7,127	1,074	1,494	2,568	596	914	1,510
	Weighted n	1,656,436	2,531,109	4,187,546	523,443	1,034,344	1,557,787	291,452	637,872	929,324

The trend for drug use in the last 12 months to decline with age is illustrated in Figure 4.2 which shows male and female prevalence rates by age group compared to the mean prevalence rate for males and females. Figure 4.2 also shows the age/gender anomaly for employed females aged 14-19 years.

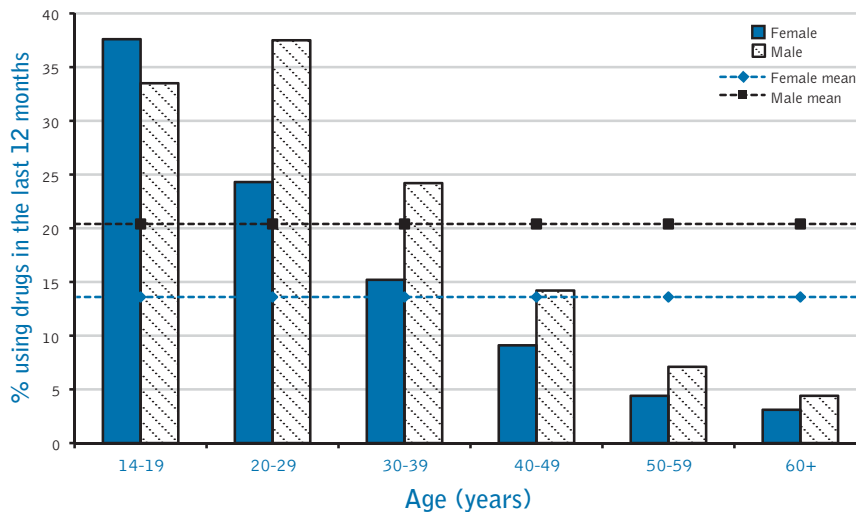


Figure 4.2 Use of any drugs in the last 12 months by age and gender of employed 2004 NDSHS respondents

In general, workers aged 14-19 years were 13 times more likely and those aged 20-29 years were nearly 12 times more likely than workers aged 60+ years to have used any drugs in the last 12 months (Table 4.4). Odds ratios shown in Table 4.4 indicate that with increasing age workers were progressively less likely to report the use of drugs in the past 12 months.

Table 4.4 Odds Ratios (OR) of using any drugs in the last 12 months by age for employed respondents to the 2004 NDSHS

Age (years)	OR	95% CI
14-19	13.4	(8.7-20.7)
20-29	11.5	(7.8-16.9)
30-39	6.4	(4.4-9.2)
40-49	3.3	(2.3-4.9)
50-59	1.5	(1.0-2.3)
*60+	1.0	-

Note: * Reference age group was 60+ years

4.3.2 Differences in drug use among the workforce by location

State/Territory location

There were significant differences among the workforce in the use of any drugs in the last 12 months according to State or Territory of residence ($F_{5.5, 9960} = 4.5, p = 0.000$). The largest proportion of workers reporting the use of any drugs in the last 12 months resided in the Northern Territory (NT) while the smallest proportion resided in New South Wales (NSW) (Table 4.5). Significant differences in the use of any drugs in the last 12 months between workers in different States and Territories were only evident for males ($F_{5.7, 10392} = 4.25, p = 0.000$). While there were variations in female workers' drug use according to State/Territory of residence, these differences were not significant (Table 4.5).

Table 4.5 Use of any drugs in the last 12 months by State/Territory location of residence and gender of 2004 NDSHS employed respondents

State/Territory	Drug use in the last 12 months			
		Female	Male	Persons
NSW	%	12.7	18.3	15.9
	95% CI	(10.9-14.8)	(16.2-20.6)	(14.3-17.6)
	Survey n	273	335	608
	Weighted n	160,559	302,849	463,408
VIC	%	12.9	19.1	16.5
	95% CI	(11.2-14.8)	(16.7-21.8)	(14.9-18.1)
	Survey n	213	313	526
	Weighted n	123,768	246,929	370,697
QLD	%	13.9	22.1	18.5
	95% CI	(11.8-16.2)	(19.6-24.8)	(16.6-20.5)
	Survey n	232	318	550
	Weighted n	105,002	213,170	318,172
WA	%	16.1	25.0	21.2
	95% CI	(12.9-19.9)	(21.0-29.6)	(18.01-24.8)
	Survey n	131	181	312
	Weighted n	61,865	129,551	191,416
SA	%	13.4	20.4	17.4
	95% CI	(10.3-17.1)	(16.8-24.5)	(14.8-20.3)
	Survey n	69	113	182
	Weighted n	38,909	79,667	118,577
TAS	%	15.9	16.6	16.3
	95% CI	(11.6-21.5)	(12.1-22.3)	(12.9-20.4)
	Survey n	39	49	88
	Weighted n	12,803	18,355	31,158
ACT	%	12.1	30.9	22.2
	95% CI	(8.5-17.1)	(25.8-36.4)	(19.2-25.5)
	Survey n	35	85	120
	Weighted n	8,684	25,560	34,244
NT	%	23.9	31.9	28.2
	95% CI	(11.5-30.4)	(24.8-39.9)	(23.1-34.0)
	Survey n	82	100	182
	Weighted n	11,853	18,263	30,116
All workers	%	13.6	20.4	17.5
	95% CI	(12.6-14.6)	(19.1-21.7)	(16.53-18.41)
	Survey n	1,074	1,494	2,568
	Weighted n	523,443	1,034,344	1,557,787

Differences in drug use by State/Territory location compared to the mean level of drug use in the last 12 months for all employed respondents to the 2004 NDSHS are depicted in Figure 4.3.

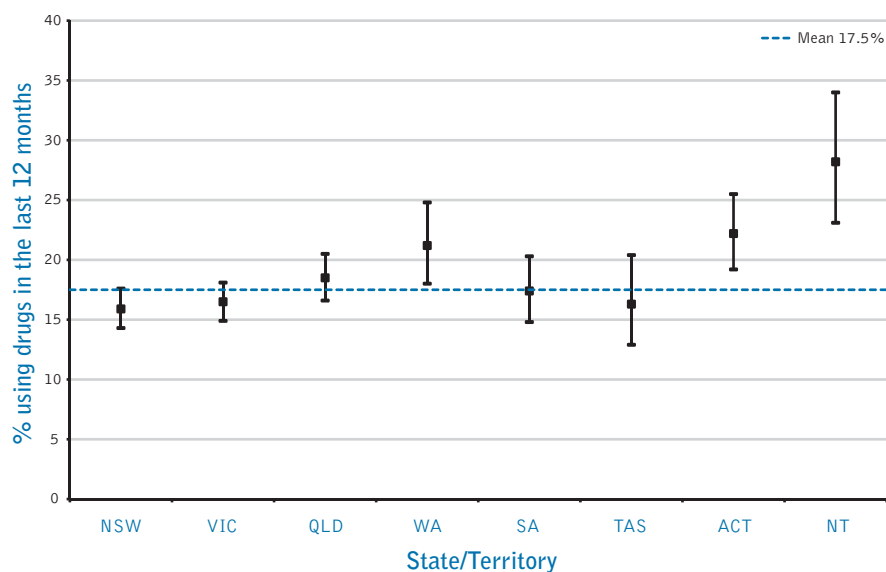


Figure 4.3 Use of any drugs in the past 12 months by State/Territory location of 2004 NDSHS employed respondents

City/Country location

There were no significant differences in the use of any drugs in the last 12 months between workers residing in city or country locations (Table 4.6).

Table 4.6 Use of any drugs in the last 12 months by city/country location and gender of 2004 NDSHS employed respondents

Location		Drug use in the last 12 months		
		Female	Male	Persons
Country	%	12.7	20.3	17.1
	95% CI	(11.2-14.5)	(18.2-22.5)	(15.5-18.7)
	Survey n	372	505	877
	Weighted n	169,165	358,193	527,358
Capital City	%	14	20.4	17.7
	95% CI	(12.8-15.4)	(18.9-22.1)	(16.5-18.9)
	Survey n	702	989	1,691
	Weighted n	354,278	676,151	1,030,429
All workers	%	13.6	20.4	17.5
	95% CI	(12.6-14.6)	(19.1-21.7)	(16.5-18.4)
	Survey n	1,074	1,494	2,568
	Weighted n	523,443	1,034,344	1,557,787

4.3.3 Differences in drug use among the workforce by Indigenous status, country of birth, and language spoken at home

Significant differences in the use of any drugs in the last 12 months were observed among the workforce according to workers' Indigenous status, country of birth and the main language they spoke at home (Table 4.7). However, due to the small numbers involved, caution is needed when interpreting the results for Indigenous status and language spoken at home.

Compared to the large numbers of non-Indigenous workers and workers who mainly spoke English at home, there were relatively few Indigenous workers and non-English speaking workers who reported using drugs in the last 12 months.

A significantly larger proportion of Indigenous workers, compared to non-Indigenous workers, reported using any drugs in the last 12 months ($F_{1, 1823} = 13.6, p = 0.000$). This difference was similar for both males and females, with a significantly larger proportion of female and male Indigenous workers reporting the use of any drugs in the last 12 months compared to female and male non-Indigenous workers ($F_{1, 1823} = 12.2, p = 0.001$ and $F_{1, 1823} = 5.0, p = 0.03$, respectively).

Compared to workers born overseas, a significantly larger proportion of Australian-born workers reported using any drugs in the last 12 months ($F_{1, 1823} = 21.5, p = 0.000$). This difference was similar for both males and females, with a significantly larger proportion of female and male Australian born workers reporting the use of any drugs in the last 12 months compared to female and male workers who were born overseas ($F_{1, 1823} = 4.2, p = 0.04$ and $F_{1, 1823} = 21.2, p = 0.000$, respectively).

Workers who mainly spoke English at home were significantly more likely to report the use of any drugs in the last 12 months, than workers who mainly spoke a language other than English at home ($F_{1, 1823} = 17.1, p = 0.000$). This difference was consistent for both males and females, with a significantly larger proportion of female and male English speaking workers reporting the use of any drugs in the last 12 months compared to female and male non-English speakers ($F_{1, 1823} = 4.6, p = 0.03$ and $F_{1, 1823} = 16.2, p = 0.000$ respectively).

Table 4.7 Differences in the use of any drugs in the past 12 months among employed respondents to the 2004 NDSHS by Indigenous status, country of birth, main language spoken at home and gender

		Drug use in the last 12 months		
		Female	Male	Total
Indigenous status				
Indigenous	%	30.4	31.6	31.1
	95% CI	(19.4-44.2)	(21.5-43.7)	(23.0-40.4)
	Survey n	24	30	54
	Weighted n	13,110	17,329	30,439
Non-Indigenous	%	13.4	20.3	17.3
	95% CI	(12.4-14.4)	(19.0-21.6)	(16.4-18.2)
	Survey n	1,044	1,457	2,501
	Weighted n	507,918	1,012,496	1,520,414
All workers*	%	13.6	20.4	17.4
	95% CI	(12.6-14.6)	(19.1-21.7)	(16.5-18.4)
	Survey n	1,068	1,487	2,555
	Weighted n	521,028	1,029,826	1,550,854
Country of birth				
Australia	%	14.1	22.1	18.5
	95% CI	(12.9-15.4)	(20.7-23.5)	(17.5-19.6)
	Survey n	884	1,213	2,097
	Weighted n	429,267	841,162	1,270,429
Other	%	11.6	15.2	13.8
	95% CI	(9.9-13.6)	(12.9-17.8)	(12.2-15.6)
	Survey n	190	276	466
	Weighted n	94,176	187,057	281,233
All workers*	%	13.6	20.4	17.5
	95% CI	(12.6-14.7)	(19.1-21.7)	(16.5-18.4)
	Survey n	1,074	1,489	2,563
	Weighted n	523,443	1,028,219	1,551,662
Language spoken at home				
English	%	13.8	21.1	17.9
	95% CI	(12.7-14.9)	(19.8-22.4)	(16.9-18.9)
	Survey n	1,049	1,459	2,508
	Weighted n	507,326	99,9489	1,506,815
Other	%	8.2	10.5	9.8
	95% CI	(5.1-13.2)	(7.2-15.1)	(7.2-13.2)
	Survey n	23	34	57
	Weighted n	13,542	34,609	48,152
All workers*	%	13.5	20.4	17.4
	95% CI	(12.5-14.6)	(19.2-21.7)	(16.5-18.4)
	Survey n	1,072	1,493	2,565
	Weighted n	520,869	1,034,098	1,554,966

Note: * Percentages for all workers vary due to differences in response rates for each survey item

4.3.4 Differences in drug use among the workforce by marital status

To examine differences in drug use by workers' marital status, employed respondents were grouped into three categories: currently married (married, defacto, or living with life partner), ever married (divorced, separated, or widowed), and single (never married). Significant differences in drug use were observed between groups ($F_{1,9, 3545} = 309.9, p = 0.000$).

The largest proportion of workers reporting the use of any drugs in the last 12 months was single and the smallest proportion reporting use was currently married (Table 4.8). These significant differences in drug use were observed according to both male ($F_{1,9, 3500} = 190.3, p = 0.000$) and female ($F_{2, 3566} = 108.0, p = 0.000$) workers' marital status (Table 4.8).

Table 4.8 Use of any drugs in the last 12 months by marital status and gender of 2004 NDSHS employed respondents

Marital status	Drug use in the last 12 months			
		Female	Male	Total
Single	%	25.8	38.2	33.1
	95% CI	(23-28.7)	(34.9-41.5)	(30.8-35.5)
	Survey n	430	667	1,097
	Weighted n	218,782	470,339	689,122
Ever married	%	13.4	21.9	17.0
	95% CI	(11.1-16.2)	(18.3-26.0)	(14.8-19.4)
	Survey n	162	145	307
	Weighted n	56,806	67,175	123,981
Currently married	%	9.6	14.1	12.2
	95% CI	(8.6-10.6)	(12.9-15.3)	(11.3-13.1)
	Survey n	476	679	1,155
	Weighted n	246,054	494,964	741,018
All workers	%	13.6	20.4	17.5
	95% CI	(12.6-14.6)	(19.2-21.7)	(16.5-18.4)
	Survey n	1,068	1,491	2,559
	Weighted n	521,643	1,032,478	1,554,121

Differences in the use of any drugs in the last 12 months according to marital status compared to the mean level of use for all workers are depicted in Figure 4.4.

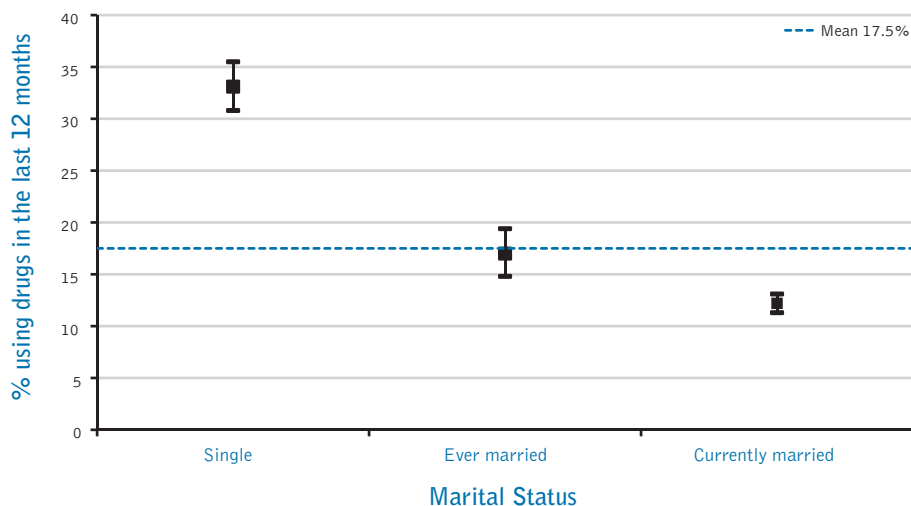


Figure 4.4 Use of any drugs in the past 12 months by marital status of 2004 NDSHS employed respondents

4.3.5 Differences in drug use among the workforce by dependent children

Compared to employed respondents with dependent children, a significantly larger proportion of those without dependent children reported the use of any drugs in the last 12 months ($F_{1, 1823} = 55.7, p = 0.000$) (Table 4.9). This difference was consistent for gender with both male and female workers without children being significantly more likely to have used any drugs in the last 12 months compared to male and female workers with dependent children ($F_{1, 1823} = 41.2, p = 0.000$ and $F_{1, 1823} = 17.2, p = 0.000$, respectively) (Table 4.9).

Table 4.9 Proportions of employed 2004 NDSHS respondents, with and without dependent children, who report the use of any drugs in the last 12 months by gender

Dependent children	Drug use in the last 12 months			
		Female	Male	Total
Yes	%	11.5	16.7	14.4
	95% CI	(10.2-12.9)	(15.2-18.3)	(13.3-15.6)
	Survey n	409	534	943
	Weighted n	213,710	411,142	624,852
No	%	15.3	24.1	20.3
	95% CI	(14.0-16.7)	(22.3-26.0)	(19.1-21.5)
	Survey n	657	954	1,611
	Weighted n	303,037	620,494	923,530
Total	%	13.5	20.4	17.4
	95% CI	(12.5-14.5)	(19.2-21.8)	(16.5-18.4)
	Survey n	1,066	1,488	2,554
	Weighted n	516,747	1,031,635	1,548,382

4.3.6 Differences in drug use among the workforce by education level

To examine differences in workers' drug use according to education level, employed respondents were categorised according to four education level groups: high school or less, certificate/diploma, undergraduate degree, and postgraduate degree. There were significant differences in drug use during the last 12 months ($F_{2.92, 5310.85} = 10.52, p = 0.000$). The lowest proportion of workers who had used drugs in the last 12 months was those with postgraduate qualifications (Table 4.10). This difference in drug use according to education level was consistent for both male ($F_{2.88, 5224} = 4.39, p = 0.002$) and female ($F_{2.94, 5346.23} = 6.61, p = 0.046$) workers (Table 4.10).

Table 4.10 Use of any drugs in the last 12 months by education level and gender of 2004 NDSHS employed respondents

Education level	Drug use in the last 12 months			
		Female	Male	Total
High School or less	%	14.5	22.4	18.6
	95% CI	(13.1-16.1)	(20.1-24.5)	(17.3-20.0)
	Survey n	413	479	893
	Weighted n	202,638	333,219	5,358,857
Certificate/Diploma	%	13.7	20.7	18.1
	95% CI	(12.2-15.2)	(19.1-22.5)	(16.8-19.4)
	Survey n	373	699	1,072
	Weighted n	187,787	482,685	670,472
Undergraduate degree	%	13.6	20.1	17.0
	95% CI	(11.6-15.9)	(17.2-23.3)	(15.1-19.2)
	Survey n	207	216	423
	Weighted n	94,599	158,818	253,417
Postgraduate degree	%	8.8	12.7	10.9
	95% CI	(6.6-11.6)	(10.1-15.8)	(9.0-13.1)
	Survey n	74	93	167
	Weighted n	32,583	55,656	88,239
Total	%	13.5	20.4	17.4
	95% CI	(12.5-14.5)	(19.2-21.7)	(16.5-18.4)
	Survey n	1,067	1,487	2,554
	Weighted n	517,607	1,030,377	1,547,984

Differences in the use of any drugs in the last 12 months according to education level compared to the mean level of use for all workers is depicted in Figure 4.5.

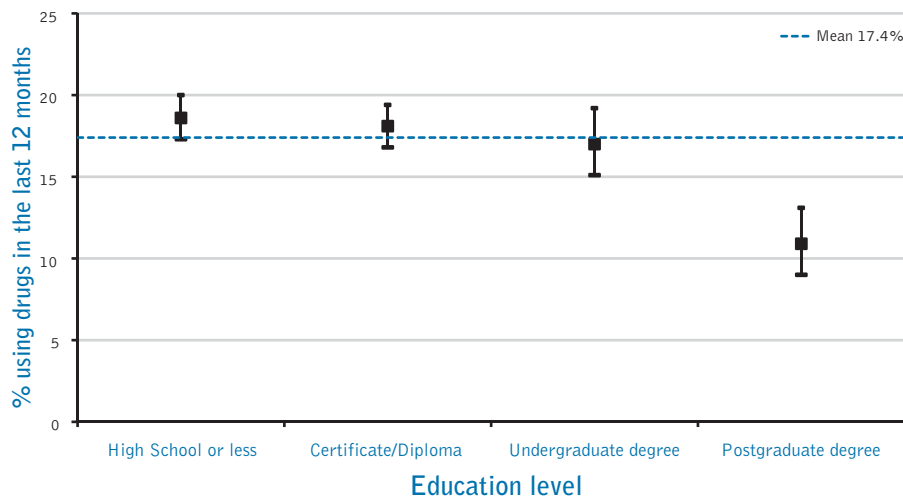


Figure 4.5 Use of any drugs in the last 12 months by educational level of 2004 NDSHS employed respondents

4.3.7 Differences in drug use among the workforce by household income

The use of any drugs in the last 12 months was most prevalent among workers earning \$20,000-\$39,000 (Table 4.11). Apart from respondents who provided no information regarding their household income, the smallest proportion of workers reporting any drug use in the last 12 months was those earning \$140,000 and above (Table 4.11). Differences in drug use according to income were similar for both male and female workers. Differences in drug use according to income were not significant.

Table 4.11 2004 NDSHS employed respondents use of any drugs in the last 12 months by income and gender

Household income	Drug use in the last 12 months			
		Female	Male	Total
\$140,000 & above	%	12.3	18.9	16.5
	95% CI	(8.6-17.3)	(15.6-22.7)	(14.1-19.2)
	Survey n	61	136	197
	Weighted n	40,945	109,221	150,166
\$100,000-\$139,000	%	13.6	20.4	17.6
	95% CI	(11.1-16.7)	(17.5-23.7)	(15.5-19.8)
	Survey n	128	203	331
	Weighted n	74,467	154,212	228,679
\$60,000-\$99,000	%	13.1	20.8	17.5
	95% CI	(11.4-15.0)	(18.9-22.9)	(16.2-19.0)
	Survey n	299	437	736
	Weighted n	148,701	317,159	465,860
\$40,000-\$59,000	%	15.4	20.4	18.3
	95% CI	(13.3-17.7)	(18.0-23.0)	(16.6-20.1)
	Survey n	228	297	525
	Weighted n	97,918	182,954	280,871
\$20,000-\$39,000	%	16.1	23.1	19.9
	95% CI	(13.4-19.1)	(19.6-27.0)	(17.6-22.5)
	Survey n	170	199	369
	Weighted n	65,983	116,044	182,027
Less than \$20,000	%	15.9	19.8	17.8
	95% CI	(11.7-21.2)	(13.6-27.9)	(13.8-22.6)
	Survey n	49	39	88
	Weighted n	15,644	18,118	33,763
No income provided	%	11.1	18.9	15.1
	95% CI	(8.9-13.8)	(15.8-22.4)	(13.2-17.2)
	Survey n	122	160	282
	Weighted n	69,486	121,438	190,924
All workers	%	13.6	20.4	17.5
	95% CI	(12.6-14.6)	(19.1-21.7)	(16.5-18.4)
	Survey n	1,057	1,471	2,528
	Weighted n	513,144	1,019,145	1,532,289

Differences in the use of any drugs in the last 12 months according to income compared to the mean level of use for all workers are depicted in Figure 4.6.

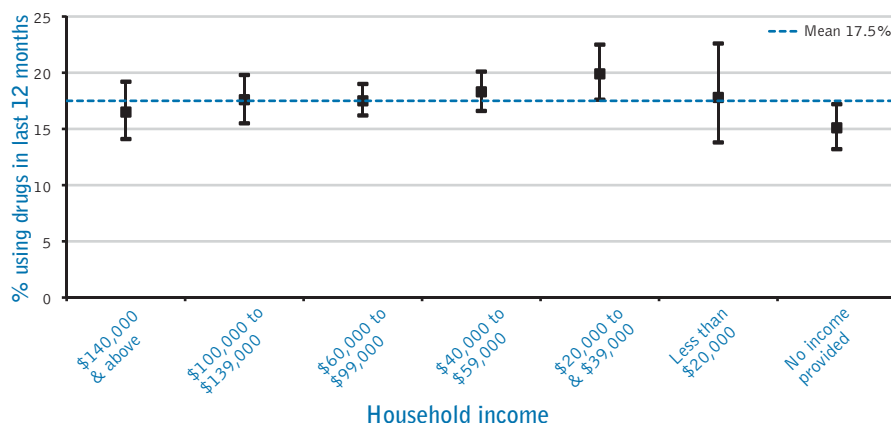


Figure 4.6 Use of any drugs in the last 12 months by income of employed 2004 NDSHS respondents

4.4 PATTERNS OF DRUG USE AMONG THE WORKFORCE

4.4.1 Types of drugs used by the workforce

The proportions of employed respondents to the 2004 NDSHS who reported using different types of drugs in the last 12 months are outlined in Table 4.12. Cannabis was the drug used by the largest proportion of workers, followed by ecstasy, methamphetamine/amphetamine, and painkillers/analgesics. Relatively few workers reported using other types of illicit drugs in the last 12 months.

4.4.2 Gender differences in the types of drugs used by the workforce

There were significant gender differences in the types of drugs used by employed respondents to the 2004 NDSHS (Table 4.12). A significantly larger proportion of males, compared to females, used cannabis ($F_{1, 1823} = 122.7, p = 0.000$), ecstasy ($F_{1, 1823} = 34.5, p = 0.000$), methamphetamine/amphetamine ($F_{1, 1823} = 22.7, p = 0.000$), cocaine ($F_{1, 1823} = 11.5, p = 0.001$), hallucinogens ($F_{1, 1823} = 23.4, p = 0.000$), inhalants ($F_{1, 1823} = 15.3, p = 0.000$), ketamine ($F_{1, 1823} = 16.2, p = 0.000$), barbiturates ($F_{1, 1823} = 12.3, p = 0.001$), GHB ($F_{1, 1823} = 5.4, p = 0.02$) and heroin ($F_{1, 1823} = 10.1, p = 0.002$). Gender differences for other types of drugs were not significant.

Table 4.12 Proportions of employed respondents to the 2004 NDSHS who used drugs in the last 12 months by gender and drug type

Drug Type		Females	Males	Persons
Cannabis	%	9.4	16.5	13.4
	95% CI	(8.6-10.2)	(15.4-17.7)	(12.7-14.2)
	Survey n	779	1,226	2,005
	Weighted n	363,940	847,577	1,211,517
Ecstasy	%	3.2	5.4	4.4
	95% CI	(2.7-3.7)	(4.7-6.1)	(3.9-5.0)
	Survey n	240	376	616
	Weighted n	122,440	276,433	398,873
Meth/amphetamine	%	2.9	4.7	3.9
	95% CI	(2.5-3.4)	(4.2-5.3)	(3.6-4.4)
	Survey n	223	331	554
	Weighted n	112,815	242,371	355,185
Painkillers	%	2.9	2.7	2.8
	95% CI	(2.4-3.5)	(2.3-3.3)	(2.4-3.3)
	Survey n	214	205	419
	Weighted n	111,930	140,200	252,129

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Table 4.12 (continued)

Cocaine	%	1.0	1.7	1.4
	95% CI	(0.8-1.4)	(1.4-2.2)	(1.2-1.7)
	Survey n	77	129	206
	Weighted n	40,606	89,255	129,862
Tranquillisers	%	1.0	1.0	1.0
	95% CI	(0.8-1.3)	(0.7-1.3)	(0.8-1.2)
	Survey n	73	70	143
	Weighted n	38,784	51,137	89,921
Hallucinogens	%	0.4	1.1	0.8
	95% CI	(0.2-0.5)	(0.8-1.4)	(0.6-1.0)
	Survey n	33	76	109
	Weighted n	13,666	56,633	70,299
Inhalants	%	0.2	0.7	0.5
	95% CI	(0.1-0.3)	(0.5-1.0)	(0.3-0.7)
	Survey n	13	47	60
	Weighted n	6,991	35,979	42,969
Ketamine	%	0.1	0.5	0.4
	95% CI	(0.1-0.3)	(0.3-0.8)	(0.2-0.5)
	Survey n	13	32	45
	Weighted n	5,183	27,130	32,312
Opiates	%	0.1	0.2	0.2
	95% CI	(0.0-0.3)	(0.1-0.4)	(0.1-0.3)
	Survey n	8	19	27
	Weighted n	4,167	10,430	14,598
Barbiturates	%	0.0	0.3	0.2
	95% CI	(0.0-0.1)	(0.1-0.5)	(0.1-0.3)
	Survey n	2	18	20
	Weighted n	1,149	12,863	14,011
GHB	%	0.1	0.2	0.1
	95% CI	(0.0-0.1)	(0.1-0.4)	(0.1-0.2)
	Survey n	7	15	22
	Weighted n	2,513	10,352	12,865
Heroin	%	0	0.2	0.1
	95% CI	(0.0-0.1)	(0.1-0.3)	(0.1-0.2)
	Survey n	4	14	18
	Weighted n	1,042	7,772	8,814
Steroids	%	0.0	0.1	0.1
	95% CI	-	(0.0-0.2)	(0.0-0.1)
	Survey n	0	6	6
	Weighted n	-	4,320	4,320
Methadone	%	0.0	0.1	0.0
	95% CI	(0.0-0.1)	(0.0-0.2)	(0.0-0.1)
	Survey n	2	7	9
	Weighted n	836	3,442	4,278

Note: Caution should be applied when interpreting statistics associated with small cell sizes

4.4.3 Age differences in the types of drugs used by the workforce

Significant age differences were observed for three of the four drug types most commonly used by employed respondents to the 2004 NDSHS: cannabis ($F_{4.8, 8719} = 166.6, p = 0.000$), ecstasy ($F_{4.5, 8181} = 116.5, p = 0.000$) and methamphetamine/amphetamine ($F_{4.5, 8238} = 114.7, p = 0.000$). There was a trend for cannabis use to decline from age 14-19 years, while ecstasy use and methamphetamine/amphetamine use peaked at age 20-29 years and declined thereafter (Table 4.13). Age differences in the proportions of workers using painkillers/analgesics were not significant.

Table 4.13 Proportions of respondents to the 2004 NDSHS who report using the four most common types of drugs by age and drug type

Age (years)		Cannabis	Ecstasy	Meth/Amphet	Painkillers / analgesics
14-19	%	31.2	9.6	9.6	3.1
	95% CI	(26.9-35.9)	(6.8-13.4)	(7.1-12.7)	(1.9-5.1)
	Survey n	188	56	59	23
	Weighted n	125,112	38,531	38,291	12,199
20-29	%	26.1	12.8	11.0	3.5
	95% CI	(24.0-28.3)	(11.2-14.5)	(9.6-12.5)	(2.7-4.6)
	Survey n	706	335	294	102
	Weighted n	479,695	235,465	201,155	64,784
30-39	%	16.0	4.7	4.0	2.9
	95% CI	(14.5-17.6)	(3.9-5.6)	(3.3-4.8)	(2.2-3.6)
	Survey n	596	174	148	118
	Weighted n	347,621	101,622	86,782	61,681
40-49	%	8.5	0.8	1.1	2.9
	95% CI	(7.6-9.5)	(0.6-1.2)	(0.8-1.5)	(2.2-3.7)
	Survey n	385	41	48	96
	Weighted n	200,022	19,639	26,300	67,515
50-59	%	3.2	0.2	0.1	2.0
	95% CI	(2.6-4.0)	(0.1-0.4)	(0.0-0.4)	(1.5-2.8)
	Survey n	122	10	4	59
	Weighted n	54,659	3,616	2,353	34,031
60+	%	0.8	0.0	0.1	2.1
	95% CI	(0.4-1.7)	-	(0.0-0.4)	(1.3-3.5)
	Survey n	8	0	1	21
	Weighted n	4,409	-	304	11,921
All workers	%	13.4	4.4	3.9	2.8
	95% CI	(12.7-14.2)	(3.9-5.0)	(3.6-4.4)	(2.4-3.3)
	Survey n	2,005	616	554	419
	Weighted n	1,211,517	398,873	355,185	25,2129

Note: Caution should be applied when interpreting statistics associated with small cell sizes

4.4.4 Intravenous drug use among the workforce

A very small proportion of the workforce (0.4%) had injected some type of non-prescribed drug in the last 12 months (Table 4.14). A significantly larger proportion of male workers compared to female workers had injected some type of non-prescribed drug ($F_{1, 1823} = 7.5, p = .01$).

Table 4.14 Proportions of employed respondents to the 2004 NDSHS who had injected any non-prescribed drug in the last 12 months by gender

Drug Type		Females	Males	All workers
Injecting drug use	%	0.2	0.6	0.4
	95% CI	(0.1-0.4)	(0.4-0.8)	(0.3-0.6)
	Survey n	19	47	66
	Weighted n	8,976	29,286	38,262

The drug most commonly injected was methamphetamine/amphetamine with 90.5% (95% CI 77.1%-96.5%, n = 60, weighted n = 34,638) of employed injecting drug users reporting they injected methamphetamine/amphetamine.

4.4.5 Polydrug³ use among the workforce

A larger proportion of employed drug users were single drug users compared to polydrug users. There were no significant gender differences in the proportions of workers who were polydrug or single drug users (Table 4.15). Cannabis was the drug most commonly used by single drug users with 68.9% reporting the use of this drug. The second most commonly used drug by single drug users was painkillers/analgesics with 20.3% of single drug users reporting the use of painkillers/analgesics.

Table 4.15 Proportions of single drug and polydrug users among employed respondents to the 2004 NDSHS who used drugs in the last 12 months by gender

Gender		Single drug use	Polydrug use
Female	%	67.0	33.0
	95% CI	(63.3-70.4)	(29.6-36.7)
	Survey n	723	351
	Weighted n	350,481	172,961
Male	%	63.1	36.9
	95% CI	(60.2-66.0)	(34.0-39.8)
	Survey n	961	533
	Weighted n	652,689	381,655
All workers	%	64.4	35.6
	95% CI	(62.0-66.7)	(33.3-38.0)
	Survey n	1,684	884
	Weighted n	1,003,170	55,4617

There were significant differences in the proportions of single drug users and polydrug users by age ($F_{9,8, 7919} = 28.6, p = 0.000$). The largest proportion of workers engaging in polydrug use were those aged 20-29 years, while the smallest proportion of workers engaging in polydrug use were those aged 50-59 years (Table 4.16).

³ Polydrug use is defined as the use of more than one drug by an individual. This definition includes either the concurrent use of more than one type of drug or the use of a different drug type on separate occasions.

Table 4.16 Proportions of single and polydrug users among employed respondents to the 2004 NDSHS who used drugs in the last 12 months by age

Age (years)		Single drug use	Polydrug use
14-19	%	59.2	40.8
	95% CI	(50.8-67.1)	(32.9-49.2)
	Survey n	121	89
	Weighted n	82,776	56,973
20-29	%	52.3	47.7
	95% CI	(48.3-56.3)	(43.7-51.7)
	Survey n	452	407
	Weighted n	303,029	276,272
30-39	%	64.5	35.5
	95% CI	(60.3-68.5)	(31.5-39.7)
	Survey n	497	265
	Weighted n	284,869	156,744
40-49	%	80.6	19.4
	95% CI	(76.4-84.2)	(15.8-23.6)
	Survey n	403	98
	Weighted n	223,898	53,895
50-59	%	92.9	7.1
	95% CI	(88.1-95.8)	(4.2-11.9)
	Survey n	180	18
	Weighted n	91,197	7,000
60+ workers*	%	82.3	17.7
	95% CI	(64.1-92.4)	(7.6-35.9)
	Survey n	31	7
	Weighted n	17,401	3,734
All workers	%	64.4	35.6
	95% CI	(62.0-66.7)	(33.3-38.0)
	Survey n	1,684	884
	Weighted n	1,003,170	554,617

Note: *Caution needs to be applied when interpreting polydrug use statistics for workers aged 60+ years due to the small cell sizes (survey n)

4.4.6 Frequency of drug use among the workforce

The frequency with which workers used drugs varied according to drug type (Table 4.17). Of the four drugs most commonly used by the workforce, the largest proportion of workers reporting daily use was cannabis users. The largest proportions of workers reporting weekly use were cannabis users and painkiller/analgesic users. Most ecstasy and methamphetamine use among the workforce occurred monthly or less often (Table 4.17).

Table 4.17 Frequency of cannabis, ecstasy, methamphetamine/amphetamine, and painkiller/analgesic use by employed respondents to the 2004 NDSHS who used these drugs in the last 12 months

Drug type		Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Less often	Total*
Cannabis	%	16.4	22.5	11.5	49.6	100
	95% CI	(14.4-18.7)	(20.2-25.0)	(9.7-13.5)	(46.7-52.5)	-
	Survey n	323	462	232	975	1992
	Weighted n	197,237	271,042	137,944	596,275	1,202,498
Ecstasy	%	0.1	6.3	15.1	78.5	100.0
	95% CI	(0.0-0.7)	(4.4-9.0)	(12.0-18.8)	(74.3-82.1)	-
	Survey n	1	40	88	478	607
	Weighted n	394	24843	59,368	308,891	393,496
Meth/amphet	%	0.6	9.7	17.3	72.5	100.0
	95% CI	(0.2-1.9)	(7.1-13.3)	(13.6-21.6)	(67.9-76.6)	-
	Survey n	4	57	84	404	549
	Weighted n	2,145	34,194	60,926	255,917	353,182
Painkiller/ analgesic	%	3.0	17.7	27.6	51.7	100.0
	95% CI	(1.4-6.3)	(13.5-22.8)	(22.8-33.0)	(45.8-57.5)	-
	Survey n	11	71	111	201	394
	Weighted n	7,050	42,136	65,738	122,889	237,815

Note: *Totals for the number of workers using different drug types differ from the totals in Table 4.3 due to differences in response rates for survey items
Caution should be applied when interpreting statistics associated with small cell sizes

CHAPTER 5

DIFFERENCES IN DRUG USE BY INDUSTRY AND OCCUPATION

KEY POINTS

1. There were significant industry differences in the prevalence of drug use. The largest proportion of the workforce using drugs were employed in the hospitality industry (31.8%) and the smallest proportion using drugs were employed in the education industry (9.2%)
2. Hospitality industry workers were more likely than workers employed in other industries to use three of the four drugs most commonly used by the workforce – cannabis, ecstasy and methamphetamine/amphetamine. Industry differences in the use of painkillers or analgesics were not significant
3. Hospitality industry workers were also more likely to engage in polydrug use
4. There were significant industry differences in frequency of cannabis use by workers. Agricultural workers were more likely to use cannabis on daily or weekly basis than other workers. Industry differences in the frequency of using the other most commonly used drugs (ecstasy, methamphetamine/amphetamine, and painkillers/analgesics) were not significant
5. In general, males were more likely to use drugs than females, however, for some industries (e.g., the hospitality industry) and occupations (e.g., professionals), females were equally likely to use drugs as were males
6. There were significant occupation differences in drug use. Tradespersons were more likely than other occupations to have used drugs and were more likely to have used the four drugs most commonly used by the workforce – cannabis, ecstasy, methamphetamine/amphetamine and painkillers/analgesics
7. Tradespersons and unskilled workers were the occupations most likely to engage in polydrug use
8. Tradesperson was the occupation most likely to use cannabis on a daily basis, while professionals were more likely than other occupations to use cannabis on a weekly basis.

5.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter reports the prevalence of drug use among employed 2004 NDSHS respondents according to industry and occupation. As most questions included in the NDSHS did not specifically relate to drug consumption that occurs *in* the workplace, an accurate assessment of the prevalence of workplace use could not be determined. Data reported here refer to overall drug use by workers, regardless of time or place of use. Despite the limitations of this type of data for determining the extent of drug-related risk to safety and productivity, it allows for the identification of industry and occupation groups that may be at higher risk than other workplace groups.

5.2 DIFFERENCES IN DRUG USE BY INDUSTRY

5.2.1 Industry differences in the use of any drugs in the last 12 months

There were significant differences between industry groups in the use of any drugs in the last 12 months ($F_{10.5, 19196} = 14.7, p = 0.000$). The largest proportion of workers reporting the use of any drugs in the last 12 months was employed in the hospitality industry. High prevalence rates were also evident in the construction and retail industries, while the smallest proportion of workers reporting drug use was employed in the education industry (Table 5.1).

Industry differences in the use of any drugs in the last 12 months were evident for both male ($F_{10.4, 18888} = 5.60, p = 0.000$) and female ($F_{9.6, 17514} = 11.41, p = 0.000$) workers. In general, industry differences in drug use for both male and female workers were similar to industry differences among the total workforce. For example, both male and female workers employed in the hospitality industry reported the highest drug use prevalence levels compared to male and female workers employed in other industries.

Gender differences in drug use varied within some industries. A significantly larger proportion of males, compared to females, employed in the agriculture ($F_{1, 1823} = 11.5, p = 0.001$), manufacturing ($F_{1, 1823} = 4.5, p = 0.04$), construction ($F_{1, 1823} = 25.0, p = 0.000$), retail ($F_{1, 1823} = 6.1, p = 0.01$), transport ($F_{1, 1823} = 4.5, p = 0.03$), finance ($F_{1, 1823} = 4.1, p = 0.04$) education ($F_{1, 1823} = 22.3, p = 0.000$), and services ($F_{1, 1823} = 26.4, p = 0.000$) industries reported the use of any drugs in the last 12 months. There were no significant gender differences for drug use among workers employed in the wholesale, hospitality, or administration industries. In contrast, a significantly larger proportion of female mining industry workers reported drug use compared to male mining industry workers ($F_{1, 1794} = 4.5, p = 0.03$). However, gender differences within the mining industry need to be interpreted with some caution due to the relatively small sample of mining industry workers who reported drug use in the last 12 months.

Table 5.1 Proportions of employed respondents to the 2004 NDSHS who reported any drug use in the last 12 months by industry and gender

Use of any drugs in last 12 months				
Industry		Females	Males	All
Agriculture	%	5.8	19.3	15.8
	95% CI	(2.9-11.3)	(14.3-25.6)	(11.9-20.6)
	Survey n	11	45	56
	Weighted n	3,519	33,346	36,866
Mining	%	27.8	10.1	12.0
	95% CI	(12.2-51.6)	(5.9-16.6)	(7.7-18.3)
	Survey n	9	21	30
	Weighted n	4,231	12,498	16,729

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Table 5.1 (continued)

Manufacturing	%	12.9	18.7	17.2
	95% CI	(9.3-17.6)	(16.0-21.7)	(14.9-19.7)
	Survey n	54	167	221
	Weighted n	29,949	124,447	154,396
Construction	%	10.0	26.3	24.2
	95% CI	(6.6-14.8)	(23.1-29.7)	(21.2-27.4)
	Survey n	25	248	273
	Weighted n	10,160	182,118	192,278
Wholesale	%	15.3	16.8	16.4
	95% CI	(8.8-25.2)	(11.4-24.0)	(12.0-21.8)
	Survey n	15	33	48
	Weighted n	7,805	22,339	30,144
Retail	%	17.1	23.8	20.7
	95% CI	(14.3-20.3)	(20.1-28.0)	(18.5-23.2)
	Survey n	167	195	362
	Weighted n	87,458	144,954	232,412
Hospitality	%	29.4	34.7	31.8
	95% CI	(23.9-35.6)	(27.9-42.1)	(27.4-36.4)
	Survey n	108	85	193
	Weighted n	58,223	55,617	113,840
Transport	%	11.0	20.2	18.3
	95% CI	(6.3-18.5)	(16.2-24.9)	(15.0-22.2)
	Survey n	20	96	116
	Weighted n	9,068	65,456	74,524
Finance	%	15.3	19	17.4
	95% CI	(13.2-17.6)	(16.2-22.3)	(15.5-19.5)
	Survey n	185	203	388
	Weighted n	91,513	152,607	244,120
Administration	%	10.3	13.9	12.4
	95% CI	(7.6-13.8)	(10.4-18.5)	(9.9-15.5)
	Survey n	60	72	132
	Weighted n	18,124	34,009	52,133
Education	%	6.1	16.0	9.2
	95% CI	(4.5-8.2)	(12.3-20.4)	(7.6-11.1)
	Survey n	68	61	129
	Weighted n	31,885	38,192	70,078
Services	%	12.2	20.0	15.1
	95% CI	(10.8-13.9)	(17.1-23.2)	(13.6-16.7)
	Survey n	294	202	496
	Weighted n	137,425	128,825	266,251
All workers	%	13.3	20.7	17.5
	95% CI	(12.3-14.4)	(19.4-22.0)	(16.5-18.5)
	Survey n	1,016	1,428	2,444
	Weighted n	489,362	994,408	1,483,770

Note: Caution should be applied when interpreting statistics associated with small cell sizes

Industry mean levels of any drug use in the last 12 months, compared with the mean prevalence levels for all workers, are shown in Figure 5.1.

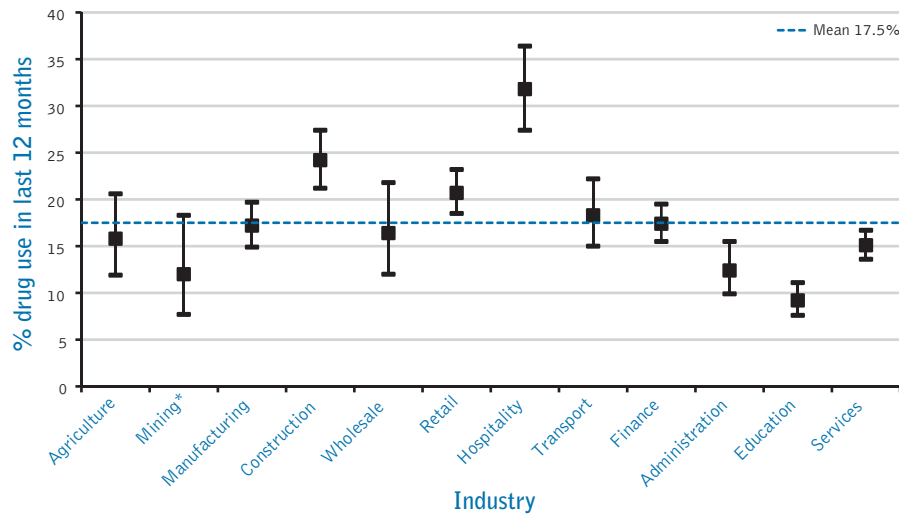


Figure 5.1 Industry mean levels of any drug use in the last 12 months compared to the mean level of drug use for all workers

5.2.2 Industry differences in the types of drugs used

Industry differences in the proportions of workers who used each of the four drugs most commonly used (i.e., cannabis, ecstasy, methamphetamine/amphetamine, painkillers/analgesics) are outlined in Table 5.2. There were significant industry differences in the proportions of workers reporting the use of cannabis in the last 12 months ($F_{10.5, 18864} = 12.8, p = 0.000$). The industries with the largest proportion of workers using cannabis were the hospitality industry and the construction industry, while the smallest proportion of workers using cannabis was employed in the education industry (Table 5.2).

Significant industry differences were also observed in the proportions of workers reporting ecstasy use in the last 12 months ($F_{10, 18213} = 5.7, p = 0.000$). The largest proportion of workers reporting ecstasy use was employed in the hospitality industry, while the smallest proportions of workers reporting use were employed in the mining and education industries (Table 5.2).

Methamphetamine/amphetamine use in the last 12 months also differed significantly between industries ($F_{9.4, 17072} = 6.3, p = 0.000$). The largest proportion of workers reporting use was employed in the hospitality industry, while the smallest proportions of workers reporting use were employed in the education and mining industries (Table 5.2). The use of painkillers or analgesics in the last 12 months did not differ significantly between industry groups.

Table 5.2 Industry differences in proportions of employed respondents to the 2004 NDSHS who reported using any of the four drugs most commonly used by the workforce

Industry		Cannabis	Ecstasy	Meth/Amphet	Painkillers / analgesics
Agriculture	%	13.1	3.5	4.9	1.1
	95% CI	(9.4-18.0)	(1.7-7.2)	(2.7-8.7)	(0.4-2.7)
	Survey n	44	11.0	16	5
	Weighted n	31,061	8,237	11,547	2,592
Mining	%	9.0	1.4	1.0	2.0
	95% CI	(5.5-14.6)	(0.5-4.0)	(0.4-3.1)	(0.5-7.2)
	Survey n	23	4	4	4
	Weighted n	12,742	2,031	1,471	2,752

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Table 5.2 (continued)

Manufacture	%	12.7	4.6	4.5	2.9
	95% CI	(10.8-14.9)	(3.3-6.4)	(3.3-6.0)	(2.0-4.3)
	Survey n	166	48	52	38
	Weighted n	115,552	41,867	40,665	26,620
Construction	%	20.1	4.7	5.2	2.6
	95% CI	(17.3-23.2)	(3.4-6.3)	(3.9-7.0)	(1.7-3.9)
	Survey n	230	52	61	33
	Weighted n	161,702	37,557	42,045	20,805
Wholesale	%	12.8	4.6	2.8	1.8
	95% CI	(9.0-17.9)	(2.6-8.1)	(1.5-5.4)	(0.8-4.3)
	Survey n	39	14	10	6
	Weighted n	23,831	8,581	5,272	3,410
Retail	%	15.6	5.5	4.6	3.5
	95% CI	(13.7-17.7)	(4.3-7.1)	(3.5-6.0)	(2.5-4.8)
	Survey n	280	91	78	62
	Weighted n	176,243	62,732	52,017	39,353
Hospitality	%	25.6	10.1	9.3	4.6
	95% CI	(21.6-30.1)	(7.7-13.2)	(6.7-12.8)	(3.0-7.1)
	Survey n	160	67	57	29
	Weighted n	92,203	36,381	33,445	16,529
Transport	%	13.1	3.7	5.4	3.9
	95% CI	(10.4-16.4)	(2.1-6.4)	(3.5-8.2)	(2.5-6.1)
	Survey n	86	17	27	28
	Weighted n	54,132	15,044	22,145	16,084
Finance	%	13.8	5.6	4.3	2.4
	95% CI	(12.0-15.8)	(4.4-7.2)	(3.3-5.6)	(1.7-3.3)
	Survey n	302	108	86	58
	Weighted n	195,155	79,826	60,970	33,613
Admin	%	10.1	3.2	2.4	2.1
	95% CI	(7.7-13.0)	(2.2-4.8)	(1.5-3.9)	(1.3-3.4)
	Survey n	104	39	27	22
	Weighted n	42,606	13,651	10,172	8,703
Education	%	6.4	1.8	0.9	2.2
	95% CI	(5.1-8.0)	(1.1-3.0)	(0.4-2.2)	(1.4-3.5)
	Survey n	94	21	11	26
	Weighted n	48,940	13,477	6,853	16,575
Services	%	11.8	3.5	3.1	2.8
	95% CI	(10.5-13.3)	(2.7-4.4)	(2.5-3.8)	(2.2-3.5)
	Survey n	395	118	105	83
	Weighted n	210,540	61,489	54,632	49,293
Total	%	13.6	4.4	4.0	2.8
	95% CI	(12.8-14.4)	(4.0-5.0)	(3.6-4.4)	(2.4-3.2)
	Survey n	1,923	590	534	394
	Weighted n	1,164,707	380,871	341,233	236,330

Note: Caution should be applied when interpreting statistics associated with small cell sizes

5.2.3 Industry differences in patterns of drug use

There were significant industry differences in the proportions of workers who engaged in polydrug use ($F_{20, 36704} = 8.1, p = 0.000$). The largest proportion of workers engaging in polydrug use was employed in the hospitality industry, while the smallest proportion reporting polydrug use was employed in the education industry (Table 5.3).

Table 5.3 Industry differences in proportions of employed respondents to the 2004 NDSHS who reported polydrug use in the last 12 months

Industry	%	(95% CI)	Survey n	Weighted n
Agriculture	5.8	(3.3-9.8)	17	13,470
Mining	3.2	(1.2-8.0)	6	4,411
Manufacturing	6.4	(4.9-8.3)	72	57,672
Construction	7.7	(6.1-9.7)	91	61,079
Wholesale	3.9	(2.2-6.7)	14	7,135
Retail	6.8	(5.5-8.3)	122	75,862
Hospitality	13.8	(10.8-17.4)	87	49,493
Transport	7.4	(5.2-10.5)	44	30,190
Finance	7.0	(5.7-8.6)	140	97,825
Admin	4.8	(3.4-6.6)	51	19,947
Education	2.1	(1.3-3.4)	25	15,854
Service	5.6	(4.6-6.7)	181	98,753
Total	6.3	(5.7-6.9)	850	531,689

Note: Caution should be applied when interpreting statistics associated with small cell sizes

There were significant industry differences in frequency of cannabis use among employed cannabis users ($F_{26.8, 33359} = 2.1, p = 0.001$). The largest proportion of cannabis users reporting daily use was employed in the agriculture industry, while the smallest proportion reporting daily use were employed in the education industry (Table 5.4). The largest proportions of cannabis users reporting weekly use were employed in the agriculture and hospitality industries, while the smallest proportion reporting weekly cannabis use was employed in the construction industry (Table 5.4). The mining industry had the smallest proportion of workers who used cannabis on a daily basis, and the largest proportion of workers who used cannabis occasionally (i.e., less often than monthly) (Table 5.4).

Industry differences in the frequency of ecstasy use among workers who reported ecstasy use in the last 12 months were also observed (Table 5.5). However, while the proportions of workers who used ecstasy daily, weekly, monthly, or less often differed by industry, these differences were not significant.

The frequency of methamphetamine/amphetamine use among workers who reported methamphetamine/amphetamine use in the last 12 months also differed by industry (Table 5.6). However, these differences were not significant.

Table 5.4 Frequency of cannabis use among employed respondents to the 2004 NDSHS who reported cannabis use in the last 12 months by industry

Industry		Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Less often	Total
Agriculture	%	33.9	32.6	1.9	31.6	100.0
	95% CI	(19.8-51.5)	(18.7-50.4)	(0.4-7.5)	(16.6-51.9)	-
	Survey n	15	15	2	12	44
	Weighted n	10,521	10,135	582	9,824	31,061
Mining	%	4.6	23.1	1.5	70.8	100.0
	95% CI	(1.1-17.7)	(9.6-45.9)	(0.2-10.4)	(49.0-85.9)	-
	Survey n	2	5	1	15	23
	Weighted n	585	2,947	189	9,021	12,742

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Table 5.4 (continued)

Manufact	%	17.7	24.2	12.3	45.7	100.0
	95% CI	(12.0-25.3)	(16.7-33.8)	(7.1-20.5)	(37.3-54.3)	-
	Survey n	32	42	20	71	165
	Weighted n	20,396	27,909	14,207	52,578	115,091
Construction	%	24.5	17.1	8.1	50.4	100.0
	95% CI	(18.4-31.7)	(12.7-22.5)	(5.1-12.7)	(42.8-58.0)	-
	Survey n	56	47	19	104	226
	Weighted n	38,806	27,062	12,844	79,981	158,694
Wholesale	%	6.8	19.0	23.6	50.7	100.0
	95% CI	(2.1-19.6)	(8.6-37.0)	(9.2-48.4)	(33.5-67.7)	-
	Survey n	3	8	6	22	39
	Weighted n	1,613	4,524	5,616	12,078	23,831
Retail	%	17.0	20.0	12.6	50.4	100.0
	95% CI	(12.3-23.0)	(15.5-25.5)	(8.5-18.3)	(42.9-57.9)	-
	Survey n	47	65	35	133	280
	Weighted n	29,885	35,282	22,288	88,787	176,242
Hospitality	%	18.6	31.2	14.9	35.3	100.0
	95% CI	(12.6-26.6)	(22.6-41.3)	(8.7-24.4)	(27.2-44.5)	-
	Survey n	32	49	18	60	159
	Weighted n	17,074	28,665	13,657	32,462	91,858
Transport	%	10.0	29.1	13.1	47.8	100.0
	95% CI	(4.7-20.2)	(18.5-42.6)	(6.9-23.5)	(35.4-60.5)	-
	Survey n	8	19	12	46	85
	Weighted n	5,362	15,588	7,006	25,572	53,528
Finances	%	12.9	23.5	9.4	54.2	100.0
	95% CI	(8.6-18.9)	(18.4-29.6)	(6.5-13.3)	(47.4-60.8)	-
	Survey n	36	66	32	167	301
	Weighted n	25,108	45,862	18,304	105,553	194,827
Admin	%	12.3	25.6	6.2	56.0	100.0
	95% CI	(6.8-21.3)	(16.6-37.1)	(3.1-12.0)	(45.2-66.2)	-
	Survey n	15	25	9	54	103
	Weighted n	5,208	10,812	2,605	23,657	42,281
Education	%	4.9	26.5	12.5	56.1	100.0
	95% CI	(1.8-12.5)	(16.4-39.9)	(6.9-21.6)	(43.9-67.5)	-
	Survey n	5	25	13	50	93
	Weighted n	2,290	12,315	5,837	26,072	46,514
Services	%	16.9	18.7	14.0	50.4	100.0
	95% CI	(12.7-22.2)	(14.7-23.5)	(10.3-18.8)	(44.9-55.9)	-
	Survey n	59	79	53	203	394
	Weighted n	35,574	39,278	29,422	105,845	210,120
All workers	%	16.6	22.5	11.5	49.4	100.0
	95% CI	(14.5-19.0)	(20.2-25.0)	(9.7-13.5)	(46.5-52.3)	-
	Survey n	310	445	220	937	1912
	Weighted n	192,424	260,378	132,558	571,429	1,156,790

Note: Caution should be applied when interpreting statistics associated with small cell sizes

Table 5.5 Frequency of ecstasy use among employed respondents to the 2004 NDSHS who reported ecstasy use in the last 12 months by industry

Industry		Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Less often	Total
Agriculture	%	0.0	0.0	7.3	92.7	100.0
	95% CI	-	-	(0.9-39.5)	(60.5-99.1)	-
	Survey n	0	0	1	10	11
	Weighted n	-	-	603	7,634	8,237
Mining	%	0.0	0.0	27.6	72.4	100.0
	95% CI	-	-	(3.7-79.3)	(20.7-96.3)	-
	Survey n	0	0	1	3	4
	Weighted n	-	-	561	1,470	2,031
Manufact	%	0.0	6.8	11.8	81.4	100.0
	95% CI	-	(2.4-17.4)	(5.6-23.1)	(68.6-89.8)	-
	Survey n	0	4	9	34	47
	Weighted n	-	2,808	4,904	33,827	41,539
Construction	%	0.0	12.1	6.4	81.5	100.0
	95% CI	-	(5.1-26.1)	(1.7-21.0)	(64.8-91.4)	-
	Survey n	0	6	3	43	52
	Weighted n	-	4,527	2,408	30,622	37,557
Wholesale	%	0.0	0.0	27.7	72.3	100.0
	95% CI	-	-	(8.6-60.8)	(39.2-91.4)	-
	Survey n	0	0	3	10	13
	Weighted n	-	-	1,970	5,145	7,115
Retail	%	0.0	9.2	15.3	75.6	100.0
	95% CI	-	(4.3-18.4)	(8.1-26.8)	(63.8-84.5)	-
	Survey n	0	8	13	70	91
	Weighted n	-	5,743	9,572	47,417	62,732
Hospitality	%	0.0	3.6	17.3	79.1	100.0
	95% CI	-	(0.9-13.2)	(8.7-31.4)	(65.0-88.5)	-
	Survey n	0	3	10	51	64
	Weighted n	-	1,262	6,035	27,635	34,933
Transport	%	0.0	18.8	29.3	51.9	100.0
	95% CI	-	(4.9-50.8)	(10.7-58.8)	(25.6-77.2)	-
	Survey n	0	3	5	9	17
	Weighted n	-	2,824	4,406	7,814	15,044
Finances	%	0.5	3.7	20.6	75.1	100.0
	95% CI	(0.1-3.2)	(1.7-8.1)	(12.4-32.2)	(63.3-84.1)	-
	Survey n	1	7	16	82	106
	Weighted n	394	2,955	16,344	59,505	79,198
Admin	%	0.0	0.0	18.9	81.1	100.0
	95% CI	-	-	(8.4-37.2)	(62.8-91.6)	-
	Survey n	0	0	9	30	39
	Weighted n	-	-	2,579	11,071	13,651
Education	%	0.0	0.0	2.5	97.5	100.0
	95% CI	-	-	(0.5-11.6)	(88.4-99.5)	-
	Survey n	0	0	2	19	21
	Weighted n	-	-	339	13,138	13,477

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Table 5.5 (continued)

Services	%	0.0	6.0	11.7	82.2	100.0
	95% CI	-	(2.8-12.5)	(6.3-20.7)	(73.1-88.7)	-
	Survey n	0	8	12	96	116
	Weighted n	-	3,623	7,028	49,330	59,981
All workers	%	0.1	6.3	15.1	78.5	100.0
	95% CI	(0.0-0.7)	(4.4-9.0)	(11.9-19.1)	(74.1-82.2)	-
	Survey n	1	39	84	457	581
	Weighted n	394	23,743	56,751	294,607	375,494

Note: Caution should be applied when interpreting statistics associated with small cell sizes

Table 5.6 Frequency of methamphetamine/amphetamine use among employed respondents to the 2004 NDSHS who reported methamphetamine/amphetamine use in the last 12 months by industry

Industry		Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Less often	Total
Agriculture	%	0.0	5.6	33.1	61.3	100.0
	95% CI	-	(1.2-21.9)	(11.5-65.3)	(31.1-84.8)	-
	Survey n	0	2	4	10	16
	Weighted n	-	644	3,825	7,079	11,547
Mining	%	0.0	0.0	38.1	61.9	100.0
	95% CI	-	-	(5.7-86.4)	(13.6-94.3)	-
	Survey n	0	0	1	3	4
	Weighted n	-	-	561	910	1,471
Manufact	%	0.0	17.0	16.5	66.5	100.0
	95% CI	-	(8.0-32.6)	(8.4-29.6)	(50.8-79.2)	-
	Survey n	0	8	12	31	51
	Weighted n	-	6,722	6,494	26,257	39,472
Construction	%	0.0	9.5	8.2	82.3	100.0
	95% CI	-	(4.0-20.8)	(2.9-21.3)	(69.0-90.7)	-
	Survey n	0	7	4	49	60
	Weighted n	-	3,964	3,441	34,530	41,935
Wholesale	%	0.0	6.7	18.4	74.9	100.0
	95% CI	-	(0.9-36.7)	(2.7-64.8)	(34.9-94.3)	-
	Survey n	0	1	1	8	10
	Weighted n	-	352	971	3,949	5,272
Retail	%	0.8	13.2	19.1	66.9	100.0
	95% CI	(0.1-5.6)	(6.4-25.2)	(10.6-32.0)	(53.8-77.8)	-
	Survey n	1	10	13	54	78
	Weighted n	419	6,870	9,929	34,798	52,017
Hospitality	%	0.0	14.2	13.6	72.1	100.0
	95% CI	-	(6.0-30.1)	(6.2-27.3)	(56.8-83.6)	-
	Survey n	0	8	8	41	57
	Weighted n	-	4,765	4,559	24,121	33,445
Transport	%	0.0	6.1	20.1	73.8	100.0
	95% CI	-	(1.0-30.2)	(7.1-45.4)	(49.2-89.2)	-
	Survey n	0	2	4	21	27
	Weighted n	-	1,351	4,446	16,347	22,145

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Table 5.6 (continued)

Finances	%	0.0	5.1	22.8	72.2	100.0
	95% CI	-	(2.2-11.4)	(12.8-37.2)	(57.7-83.1)	-
	Survey n	0	7	15	63	85
	Weighted n	-	3,090	13,849	43,902	60,841
Admin	%	0.0	3.2	2.3	94.5	100.0
	95% CI	-	(0.4-20.4)	(0.3-15.1)	(79.1-98.7)	-
	Survey n	0	1	1	24	26
	Weighted n	-	325	225	9,441	9,990
Education	%	0.0	14.5	3.5	82.0	100.0
	95% CI	-	(1.7-62.1)	(0.4-25.2)	(37.9-97.1)	-
	Survey n	0	1	1	9	11
	Weighted n	-	995	242	5,616	6,853
Services	%	3.2	7.2	12.4	77.2	100.0
	95% CI	(0.9-11.1)	(3.4-14.5)	(6.8-21.5)	(67.0-85.0)	-
	Survey n	3	8	14	79	104
	Weighted n	1,726	3,919	6,717	41,881	54,242
All workers	%	0.6	9.7	16.3	73.4	100.0
	95% CI	(0.2-1.9)	(7.1-13.2)	(12.8-20.6)	(68.7-77.6)	-
	Survey n	4	55	78	392	529
	Weighted n	2,145	32,995	55,259	248,830	339,230

Note: Caution should be applied when interpreting statistics associated with small cell sizes

Table 5.7 Frequency of painkiller/analgesic use among employed respondents to the 2004 NDSHS who reported painkiller/analgesic use in the last 12 months by industry

Industry		Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Less often	Total
Agriculture	%	0.0	48.0	0.0	52.0	100.0
	95% CI	-	(13.1-85.0)	-	(15.0-86.9)	-
	Survey n	0	2	0	3	5
	Weighted n	-	1,244	-	1,348	2,592
Mining	%	0.0	0.0	65.2	34.8	100.0
	95% CI	-	-	(14.5-95.4)	(4.6-85.5)	-
	Survey n	0	0	2	2	4
	Weighted n	-	-	1,795	958	2,752
Manufact	%	2.3	18.0	21.6	58.1	100.0
	95% CI	(0.5-10.5)	(7.7-36.7)	(9.8-41.0)	(39.0-75.1)	-
	Survey n	2	6	8	20	36
	Weighted n	590	4,637	5,547	14,933	25,707
Construction	%	2.2	18.3	34.0	45.5	100.0
	95% CI	(0.3-14.5)	(7.3-38.8)	(18.7-53.7)	(28.1-64.1)	-
	Survey n	1	6	9	14	30
	Weighted n	423	3,477	6,470	8,658	19,028
Wholesale	%	0.0	49.3	0.0	50.7	100.0
	95% CI	-	(12.4-87.0)	-	(13.0-87.6)	-
	Survey n	0	2	0	3	5
	Weighted n	-	1,591	-	1,636	3,227

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Table 5.7 (continued)

Retail	%	0.0	27.1	28.4	44.6	100.0
	95% CI	-	(14.9-44.0)	(16.5-44.3)	(30.0-60.1)	-
	Survey n	0	15	18	24	57
	Weighted n	-	9,739	10,202	16,024	35,965
Hospitality	%	0.0	21.6	22.9	55.5	100.0
	95% CI	-	(7.4-48.7)	(9.8-44.8)	(33.5-75.5)	-
	Survey n	0	6	6	17	29
	Weighted n	-	3,572	3,791	9,166	16,529
Transport	%	0.7	12.1	47.7	39.6	100.0
	95% CI	(0.1-4.7)	(4.2-30.2)	(26.1-70.1)	(20.0-63.1)	-
	Survey n	1	4	10	10	25
	Weighted n	90	1,656	6,510	5,405	13,660
Finances	%	0.0	12.4	26.3	61.3	100.0
	95% CI	-	(4.9-27.9)	(15.3-41.3)	(45.9-74.7)	-
	Survey n	0	6	15	34	55
	Weighted n	-	3,993	8,513	19,821	32,327
Admin	%	0.0	24.6	22.0	53.4	100.0
	95% CI	-	(8.8-52.3)	(7.3-50.3)	(29.0-76.2)	-
	Survey n	0	4	4	13	21
	Weighted n	-	2,045	1,829	4,435	8,309
Education	%	3.9	5.3	22.8	67.9	100.0
	95% CI	(0.5-23.8)	(1.0-22.9)	(8.0-50.0)	(42.8-85.7)	-
	Survey n	1	2	6	14	23
	Weighted n	568	766	3,294	9,801	14,429
Services	%	8.4	15.8	26.9	48.9	100.0
	95% CI	(2.6-24.1)	(9.1-25.9)	(17.6-38.8)	(36.2-61.8)	-
	Survey n	4	16	24	36	80
	Weighted n	3,998	7,516	12,809	23,286	47,609
All workers	%	2.6	18.1	27.4	52.0	100.0
	95% CI	(1.0-6.2)	(13.8-23.3)	(22.4-33.0)	(45.9-58.0)	-
	Survey n	9	69	102	190	370
	Weighted n	5,669	40,235	60,761	115,470	222,135

Note: Caution should be applied when interpreting statistics associated with small cell sizes

Industry differences in the frequency of painkiller or analgesic use among workers who reported painkiller or analgesic use in the last 12 months are outlined in Table 5.7. While the proportions of workers who used painkillers or analgesics daily, weekly, monthly, or less often differed by industry, these differences were not significant.

5.3 DIFFERENCES IN DRUG USE BY OCCUPATION

5.3.1 Occupation differences in the use of any drugs in the last 12 months

Significant differences in the use of any drugs in the last 12 months were observed between occupations ($F_{3,9, 7187} = 27.3, p = 0.000$). The largest proportions of workers reporting the use of any drugs in the last 12 months were tradespersons and unskilled workers, while the smallest proportions reporting drug use were managers and professionals (Table 5.8).

A significantly larger proportion of males, compared to females, who were managers ($F_{1, 1823} = 9.1, p = 0.000$), professionals ($F_{1, 1823} = 25.8, p = 0.03$), tradespersons ($F_{1, 1823} = 4.5, p = 0.03$), skilled workers ($F_{1, 1823} = 18.7, p = 0.000$), or unskilled workers ($F_{1, 1823} = 9.4, p = 0.002$) reported the use of any drugs in the last 12 months.

Table 5.8 Prevalence of any drug use in the last 12 months among employed respondents to the 2004 NDSHS by occupation and gender

Occupation	Use of any drugs in the last 12 months			
		Females	Males	All
Managers	%	10.0	16.3	14.5
	95% CI	(7.4-13.2)	(13.8-19.2)	(12.5-16.7)
	Survey n	67	175	242
	Weighted n	29,770	120,719	150,489
Professionals	%	10.7	16.4	13.7
	95% CI	(9.3-12.3)	(14.5-18.5)	(12.4-15.1)
	Survey n	311	343	654
	Weighted n	138,652	231,351	370,003
Tradespersons	%	15.6	27.3	26.5
	95% CI	(8.6-26.4)	(24.2-30.6)	(23.6-29.7)
	Survey n	19	275	294
	Weighted n	7,839	198,698	206,537
Skilled workers	%	14.9	20.9	17.4
	95% CI	(13.5-16.5)	(18.6-23.4)	(16.1-18.9)
	Survey n	417	337	754
	Weighted n	214,449	217,815	432,264
Unskilled workers	%	17.9	24.5	21.7
	95% CI	(15.4-20.8)	(21.6-27.7)	(19.8-23.8)
	Survey n	205	262	467
	Weighted n	104,722	196,675	301,397
All workers	%	13.5	20.5	17.4
	95% CI	(12.5-14.6)	(19.1-21.9)	(16.5-18.4)
	Survey n	1,019	1,392	2,411
	Weighted n	495,433	965,257	1,460,690

Mean levels of any drug use in the last 12 months by occupation, compared with the mean prevalence levels for all workers, are shown in Figure 5.2.



Figure 5.2 Occupation mean levels of any drug use in the last 12 months compared to the mean level of drug use for all workers

5.3.2 Occupation differences in the types of drugs used

There were significant occupation differences in the proportions of workers reporting the use of cannabis in the last 12 months ($F_{3,9, 7165} = 21.1, p = 0.000$). The occupation with the largest proportion of workers using cannabis was tradespersons, while the smallest proportion of workers using cannabis was employed as professionals (Table 5.9).

Occupation differences in the use of ecstasy in the last 12 months were not significant. However, significant occupation differences were observed in the proportions of workers reporting methamphetamine/amphetamine use in the last 12 months ($F_{3,9, 7081} = 8.0, p = 0.000$). The largest proportion of workers reporting methamphetamine/amphetamine use was tradespersons, while the smallest proportions of workers reporting use were employed as professionals or managers (Table 5.9).

The proportions of workers reporting painkiller or analgesic use in the last 12 months also differed significantly between occupations ($F_{3,9, 7174} = 5.6, p = 0.000$). The largest proportion of workers reporting use was tradespersons, while the smallest proportion of workers reporting use was professionals (Table 5.9).

Table 5.9 Occupation differences in proportions of respondents to the 2004 NDSHS who reported using the four most common types of drugs used

Occupation		Cannabis	Ecstasy	Meth/Amphet	Painkillers / analgesics
Managers	%	11.2	4.0	2.8	2.6
	95% CI	(9.5-13.2)	(3.0-5.3)	(2.1-3.7)	(1.8-3.8)
	Survey n	192	66	49	40
	Weighted n	117,444	41,852	28,885	27,371
Professionals	%	10.8	4.0	2.8	1.7
	95% CI	(9.6-12.1)	(3.3-4.8)	(2.3-3.5)	(1.3-2.2)
	Survey n	515	170	119	86
	Weighted n	294,339	107,984	77,029	46,363
Tradespersons	%	21.1	5.2	6.1	3.9
	95% CI	(18.4-24.1)	(3.9-6.8)	(4.8-7.7)	(2.7-5.6)
	Survey n	245	58	65	39
	Weighted n	167,525	40,909	47,950	30,815
Skilled workers	%	13.0	4.2	4.5	3.4
	95% CI	(11.9-14.3)	(3.5-5.0)	(3.7-5.3)	(2.7-4.1)
	Survey n	572	171	179	148
	Weighted n	325,336	104,400	111,303	83,680
Unskilled workers	%	16.9	5.6	4.9	3.1
	95% CI	(15.1-18.7)	(4.4-7.0)	(3.8-6.2)	(2.4-4.1)
	Survey n	367	115	109	75
	Weighted n	237,135	78,406	68,345	43,644
All workers	%	13.5	4.4	3.9	2.7
	95% CI	(12.7-14.3)	(3.9-5.0)	(3.5-4.4)	(2.3-3.2)
	Survey n	1,891	580	521	388
	Weighted n	1,141,776	373,551	333,512	231,873

5.3.3 Occupation differences in patterns of drug use

There were significant occupation differences in the proportions of workers who engaged in polydrug use ($F_{7,9, 14344} = 14.2, p = 0.000$). The largest proportions of workers engaging in polydrug use were tradespersons and unskilled workers, while the smallest proportion reporting polydrug use were managers and professionals (Table 5.10).

Table 5.10 Occupation differences in proportions of respondents to the 2004 NDSHS who reported polydrug use in the last 12 months

Occupation	%	(95% CI)	Survey n	Weighted n
Managers	5.0	(3.9-6.4)	80	98,739
Professionals	5.2	(4.4-6.1)	228	229,810
Tradespersons	8.4	(6.8-10.3)	89	64,943
Skilled workers	6.2	(5.3-7.2)	263	153,431
Unskilled workers	7.5	(6.3-9.0)	166	104,305
All workers	6.1	(5.6-6.8)	826	514,623

There were significant differences in the frequency of cannabis use among cannabis using workers employed in different occupations ($F_{11.3, 14027} = 3.2, p = 0.000$). The largest proportion of cannabis users reporting daily cannabis use was tradespersons, while the smallest proportions reporting daily use were managers and professionals (Table 5.11). The largest proportion of cannabis users reporting weekly use was professionals, while the smallest portions of cannabis users reporting weekly use were tradespersons and skilled workers (Table 5.11).

Table 5.11 Frequency of cannabis use among employed respondents to the 2004 NDSHS who reported cannabis use in the last 12 months by occupation

Occupation		Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Less often	Total
Managers	%	13.6	25.2	11.4	49.8	100.0
	95% CI	(8.7-20.6)	(19.0-32.6)	(6.7-18.6)	(42.1-57.6)	-
	Survey n	27	47	21	96	191
	Weighted n	15,917	29,505	13,339	58,338	117,099
Professionals	%	8.9	20.7	12.6	57.8	100.0
	95% CI	(5.9-13.2)	(16.5-25.7)	(9.8-16.2)	(52.4-63.0)	-
	Survey n	40	104	75	295	514
	Weighted n	26,112	60,903	37,085	169,814	293,914
Tradespersons	%	24.7	21.0	11.9	42.4	100.0
	95% CI	(18.9-31.7)	(15.9-27.2)	(8.0-17.3)	(34.9-50.2)	-
	Survey n	66	58	28	92	244
	Weighted n	41,322	35,057	19,900	70,801	167,080
Skilled workers	%	19.6	20.4	8.0	52.0	100.0
	95% CI	(15.9-23.9)	(16.6-24.8)	(5.6-11.4)	(46.7-57.2)	-
	Survey n	110	124	46	290	570
	Weighted n	63,561	66,289	25,958	168,600	324,408
Unskilled workers	%	16.7	25.5	13.9	43.8	100.0
	95% CI	(12.7-21.7)	(20.1-31.8)	(9.9-19.3)	(37.8-50.1)	-
	Survey n	63	99	43	158	363
	Weighted n	39,225	59,790	32,708	102,793	234,516
All workers	%	16.4	22.1	11.3	50.2	100.0
	95% CI	(14.3-18.7)	(19.9-24.6)	(9.5-13.4)	(47.2-53.1)	-
	Survey n	306	432	213	931	1,882
	Weighted n	186,138	251,544	128,990	570,347	1,137,018

Note: Caution should be applied when interpreting statistics associated with small cell sizes

Occupation differences in the frequency of ecstasy use among workers who reported ecstasy use in the last 12 months were observed (Table 5.12). However, while the proportions of workers who used ecstasy daily, weekly, monthly, or less often differed by industry, these differences were not significant.

Table 5.12 Frequency of ecstasy use among employed respondents to the 2004 NDSHS who reported ecstasy use in the last 12 months by occupation

Occupation		Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Less often	Total
Managers	%	0	8.9	16.5	74.4	100.0
	95% CI	-	(3.2-22.4)	(8.1-30.5)	(59.6-85.5)	(74.5-87.5)
	Survey n	0	5	11	48	64
	Weighted n	0	3,641	6,754	30,612	41,007
Professionals	%	0.4	1.6	12.4	85.6	100.0
	95% CI	(0.1-2.5)	(0.5-5.2)	(6.9-21.2)	(76.2-91.7)	-
	Survey n	1	3	21	141	166
	Weighted n	394	1,656	12,961	89,512	104,513
Tradespersons	%	0.0	12.1	11.5	76.5	100.0
	95% CI	-	(5.6-24.2)	(5.0-24.1)	(61.3-86.9)	-
	Survey n	0.0	7	7	44	58
	Weighted n	-	4,944	4,685	31,281	40,909
Skilled workers	%	0.0	6.2	17.8	76.0	100.0
	95% CI	-	(3.0-12.4)	(11.5-26.6)	(66.9-83.2)	-
	Survey n	0.0	13	26	130	169
	Weighted n	-	6,445	18,547	79,035	104,027
Unskilled workers	%	0.0	6.3	17.0	76.7	100.0
	95% CI	-	(2.8-13.2)	(10.2-27.1)	(66.5-84.5)	-
	Survey n	0.0	8	18	88	114
	Weighted n	-	4,864	13,245	59,610	77,719
All workers	%	0.1	5.9	15.3	78.8	100.0
	95% CI	(0.0-0.8)	(4.0-8.5)	(12.0-19.2)	(74.5-82.5)	-
	Survey n	1	36	83	451	571
	Weighted n	394	21,549	56,182	290,049	368,174

Note: Caution should be applied when interpreting statistics associated with small cell sizes

Occupation differences in the frequency of methamphetamine/amphetamine use among workers who reported methamphetamine/amphetamine use in the last 12 months were also observed (Table 5.13). However, these differences were not significant.

Table 5.13 Frequency of methamphetamine/amphetamine use among employed respondents to the 2004 NDSHS who reported methamphetamine/amphetamine use in the last 12 months by occupation

Occupation		Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Less often	Total
Managers	%	0	13.3	18.5	68.1	100.0
	95% CI	-	(5.9-27.3)	(8.9-34.6)	(51.1-81.4)	-
	Survey n	0	6	9	34	49
	Weighted n	0	3,854	5,352	19,679	28,885
Professionals	%	1.2	1.7	18.7	78.3	100.0
	95% CI	(0.2-7.0)	(0.6-5.2)	(10.5-31.2)	(65.4-87.3)	-
	Survey n	2	4	18	94	118
	Weighted n	960	1,345	14,379	60,163	76,848
Tradespersons	%	0.0	11.5	10.9	77.7	100.0
	95% CI	-	(5.6-21.9)	(5.0-22.1)	(65.3-86.6)	-
	Survey n	0.0	9	7	49	65
	Weighted n	-	5,490	5,204	37,256	47,950
Skilled workers	%	1.1	12.8	13.9	72.2	100.0
	95% CI	(0.3-4.5)	(7.5-21.1)	(9.0-20.8)	(63.5-79.5)	-
	Survey n	2	20	24	130	176
	Weighted n	1,185	14,075	15,209	79,122	109,591
Unskilled workers	%	0.0	12.1	20.9	67.0	100.0
	95% CI	-	(6.4-21.6)	(12.5-32.9)	(55.2-77.0)	-
	Survey n	0.0	16	19	73	108
	Weighted n	-	8,232	14,267	45,735	68,234
All workers	%	0.6	10.0	16.4	73.0	100.0
	95% CI	(0.2-2.0)	(7.2-13.5)	(12.7-20.9)	(68.2-77.3)	-
	Survey n	4	55	77	380	516
	Weighted n	2,145	32,995	54,413	241,955	331,509

Note: Caution should be applied when interpreting statistics associated with small cell sizes

There were no significant differences in frequency of painkiller or analgesic use among painkiller/analgesic users employed in different occupations.

Table 5.14 Frequency of painkiller/analgesic use among employed respondents to the 2004 NDSHS who reported painkiller/analgesic use in the last 12 months by occupation

Occupation		Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Less often	Total
Managers	%	0	21.8	28.7	49.5	100.0
	95% CI	-	(8.9-44.5)	(14.8-48.2)	(31.5-67.7)	-
	Survey n	0	7	11	20	38
	Weighted n	0	5,601	7,356	12,716	25,673
Professionals	%	10.6	19.1	19.1	43.1	100.0
	95% CI	(3.8-26.5)	(11.0-31.1)	(11.0-31.1)	(30.5-56.7)	-
	Survey n	6	16	21	37	80
	Weighted n	460	8,306	11,778	18,733	43,418
Tradespersons	%	1.5	24.0	24.6	49.9	100.0
	95% CI	(0.2-10.1)	(11.0-44.4)	(11.4-45.2)	(31.8-68.1)	-
	Survey n	1	8	7	18	34
	Weighted n	423	6,748	6,925	14,059	28,155
Skilled workers	%	0.1	14.4	31.1	54.3	100.0
	95% CI	(0.0-0.8)	(9.1-22.0)	(22.9-40.7)	(44.7-63.6)	-
	Survey n	1	23	43	72	139
	Weighted n	90	11,327	24,450	42,642	78,510
Unskilled workers	%	1.3	17.9	24.9	55.9	100.0
	95% CI	(0.2-9.0)	(9.9-30.1)	(16.0-36.6)	(43.7-67.5)	-
	Survey n	1	13	21	37	72
	Weighted n	557	7,464	10,399	23,384	41,804
All workers	%	2.6	18.1	28.0	51.3	100.0
	95% CI	(1.1-6.3)	(13.8-23.4)	(22.9-33.7)	(45.1-57.4)	-
	Survey n	9	67	103	184	363
	Weighted n	5,669	39,446	60,908	111,536	217,558

Note: Caution should be applied when interpreting statistics associated with small cell sizes

CHAPTER 6

DRUG USE AND ABSENTEEISM

KEY POINTS

1. A small proportion (1%) of the workforce reported drug-related absenteeism
2. Drug-related absenteeism was most prevalent among workers aged 14-19 years
3. Male workers were more likely to report drug-related absenteeism than female workers, however for workers aged 14-19 years the reverse was true
4. Workers employed in the retail and hospitality industries were more likely to report drug-related absenteeism than workers employed in other industries
5. Unskilled workers were more likely to report drug-related absenteeism compared to other occupations
6. Workers who were polydrug users were significantly ($p = 0.001$) more likely to report drug-related absenteeism compared to workers who used only one drug type
7. Workers who were drug users were significantly ($p = 0.000$) more likely than non-drug users to report absenteeism due to any illness or injury.

6.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter identifies the extent of drug-related absenteeism among the Australian workforce and presents a demographic profile of workers who report drug-related absenteeism. This section begins with an examination of the extent of self-reported absenteeism due to personal drug use and identifies age, gender, industry and occupation differences. The relationship between polydrug use, frequency of use and drug-related absenteeism due to drug use is identified. This is followed by an examination of the extent of self-reported absenteeism due to any illness/injury and a comparison of illness/injury absenteeism rates for drug users and non-drug users.

6.2 DAYS OFF FROM WORK DUE TO DRUG USE

6.2.1 Proportion of workers missing work days due to their drug use

A small minority (0.9%) of employed respondents to the 2004 NDSHS reported missing at least one work day in the last three months due to their drug use (Table 6.1). Gender differences in the proportions of workers missing one, two, or three work days due to their drug use were not significant.

Table 6.1 Proportions of respondents to the 2004 NDSHS who reported absenteeism in the last 3 months due to their drug use

Gender		1 day	2 days	≥ 3 days	Any days
Female	%	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.6
	95% CI	(0.2-0.6)	(0.0-0.2)	(0.1-0.5)	(0.5-1.1)
	Survey n	16	6	8	28
	Weighted n	8,444	2,012	4,718	15,174
Male	%	0.5	0.2	0.4	1.1
	95% CI	(0.3-0.7)	(0.1-0.5)	(0.3-0.7)	(0.9-1.7)
	Survey n	22	10	19	51
	Weighted n	16,876	7,734	13,626	38,235
All workers	%	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.9
	95% CI	(0.3-0.6)	(0.1-0.3)	(0.3-0.5)	(0.7-1.1)
	Survey n	36	16	27	79
	Weighted n	25,320	9,745	18,344	53,409

6.2.2 Gender and age differences

A significantly larger proportion of male workers, compared to female workers, reported being absent from work in the three months prior to the survey due to their drug use ($F_{1, 1807} = 5.3$, $p = .03$) (Table 6.2). Significant differences in drug-related absenteeism among age groups were also observed ($F_{4, 7331} = 18.1$, $p = 0.000$), with a larger proportion of workers aged 14-19 years reporting drug-related absenteeism compared to older workers.

Significant age differences in drug-related absenteeism were also observed for male ($F_{4.2, 7531} = 9.9$, $p = 0.000$) and female workers ($F_{4.4, 7856} = 12.2$, $p = 0.000$). Males were generally more likely than females to report absenteeism in the last three months due to drug use. However, for workers aged 14-19 years the reverse was true. A larger proportion of female workers aged 14-19 years reported drug-related absenteeism compared to male workers aged 14-19 years (Table 6.2). However, due to small cell sizes, caution should be applied when interpreting differences in drug-related absenteeism for males and females.

Table 6.2 Proportions of employed respondents to the 2004 NDSHS who reported absenteeism in the last 3 months due to their drug use by age and gender

Age (years)		Female	Male	All
14-19	%	4.5	2.5	3.3
	95% CI	(1.8-10.8)	(0.9-6.8)	(1.7-6.5)
	Survey n	7	4	11
	Weighted n	6,074	5,123	11,197
20-29	%	1.3	2.8	2.2
	95% CI	(0.7-2.4)	(1.9-4.2)	(1.5-3.0)
	Survey n	14	28	42
	Weighted n	8,997	25,779	34,776
30-39	%	0.4	1.0	0.8
	95% CI	(0.1-1.1)	(0.5-1.9)	(0.4-1.3)
	Survey n	6	12	18
	Weighted n	3,076	11,355	14,432
40-49	%	0.0	0.4	0.2
	95% CI	(0.0-0.2)	(0.1-0.9)	(0.1-0.5)
	Survey n	1	6	7
	Weighted n	287	4,126	4,413
50-59	%	0.0	0.0	0.1
	95% CI	-	(0.0-0.1)	(0.0-0.1)
	Survey n	0	1	1
	Weighted n	-	159	159
60+	%	0.0	0.0	0.0
	95% CI	-	-	-
	Survey n	0	0	0
	Weighted n	-	-	-
All workers	%	0.6	1.1	0.9
	95% CI	(0.4-0.9)	(0.8-1.4)	(0.6-1.1)
	Survey n	28	51	79
	Weighted n	18,434	46,542	64,976

Note: Caution should be applied when interpreting statistics associated with small cell sizes

Age differences in drug-related absenteeism compared to mean drug-related absenteeism for all workers are depicted in Figure 6.1. A clear trend is evident with the proportion of workers reporting absenteeism due to drug use declining with age.

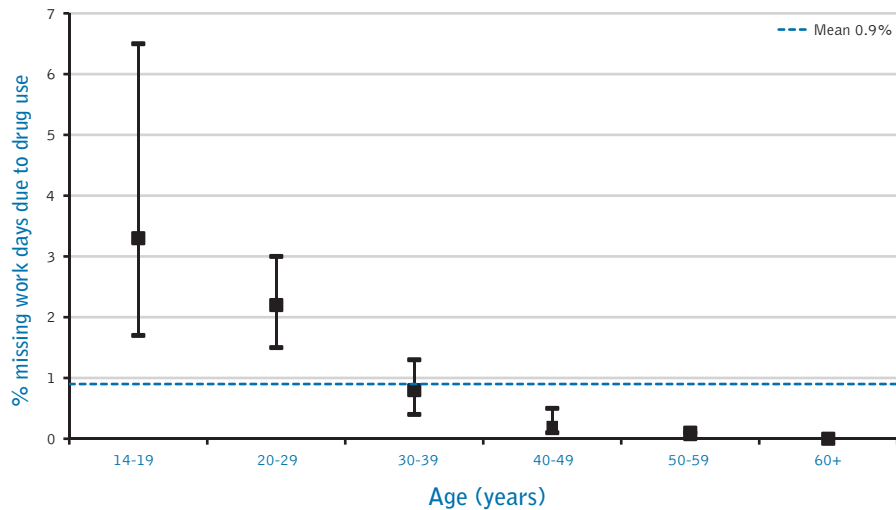


Figure 6.1 Proportions of employed respondents to the 2004 NDSHS who reported absenteeism in the past 3 months due to their drug use by age

6.2.3 Days off work due to drug use by industry

Significant industry differences were observed in the proportions of respondents to the 2004 NDSHS who reported drug-related absenteeism ($F_{10,3, 18615} = 1.7, p = 0.03$). The largest proportions reporting that they missed one or more workdays in the last three months due to their drug use were employed in the retail and hospitality industries (Table 6.3).

Table 6.3 Proportions of employed respondents to the 2004 NDSHS who reported absenteeism in the last 3 months due to their drug use by industry.

Industry	%	CI	Survey n	Weighted n
Agriculture	0.7	(0.1-4.9)	1	1,291
Mining	0.0	-	0	-
Manufacturing	0.8	(0.4 -1.8)	8	6,353
Construction	1.1	(0.6-2.3)	11	7,434
Wholesale	0.4	(0.1-2.7)	1	613
Retail	1.6	(0.9-2.8)	17	15,256
Hospitality	1.6	(0.7-3.9)	8	5,445
Transport	0.8	(0.2-3.3)	2	2,845
Finance	0.8	(0.4-1.6)	11	10,053
Administration	1.0	(0.4-2.5)	6	3,512
Education	0.0	-	0	-
Services	0.4	(0.2-1.0)	8	6,532
All workers	0.8	(0.6-1.1)	73	59,333

Note: The proportion of all workers reporting absenteeism is less than in Table 6.2 due to non-responses for the industry variable. Caution should be applied when interpreting statistics associated with small cell sizes.

Industry differences in the proportions of workers missing one or more work days in the last three months due to their drug use are shown in Figure 6.2.

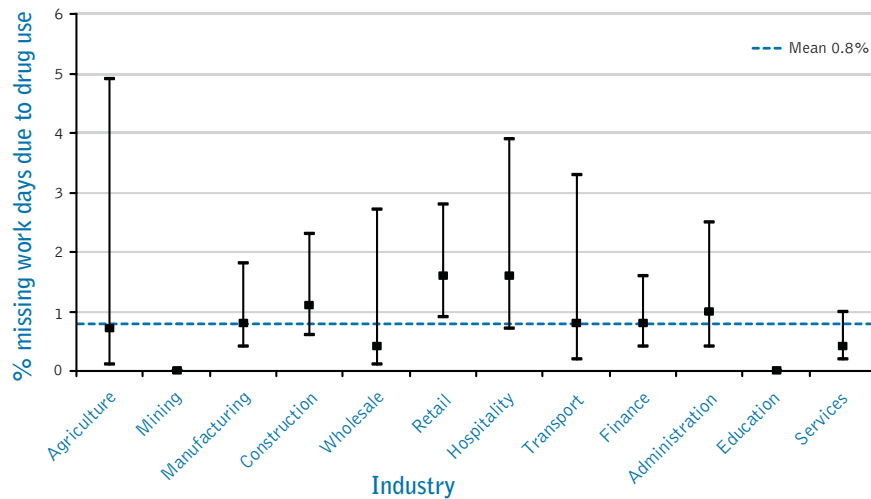


Figure 6.2 Proportions of employed 2004 NDSHS respondents who reported absenteeism in the last 3 months due to their drug use by industry

6.2.4 Days off work due to drug use by occupation

There were significant differences among occupations in the proportions of workers reporting drug-related absenteeism ($F_{3.7, 6736} = 3.6, p = 0.007$). The largest proportion of workers who reported missing one or more work days in the last three months due to their drug use was unskilled workers (Table 6.4).

Table 6.4 Proportions of employed respondents to the 2004 NDSHS who reported absenteeism in the last 3 months due to their drug use by occupation

Occupation	%	95% CI	Survey n	Weighted n
Managers	0.1	(0.0-0.7)	2	928
Professionals	0.5	(0.3-1.0)	13	11,419
Tradespersons	0.7	(0.3-1.7)	6	4,954
Skilled workers	1.0	(0.6-1.6)	26	22,150
Unskilled workers	1.5	(1.0-2.5)	24	18,940
Total	0.8	(0.6-1.1)	71	58,390

Note: Total proportion of workers reporting absenteeism is less than in Table 6.2 due to non-responses for the industry variable. Caution should be applied when interpreting statistics associated with small cell sizes.

Occupation differences in the proportions of workers missing one or more work days in the last three months due to their drug use are shown in Figure 6.3.

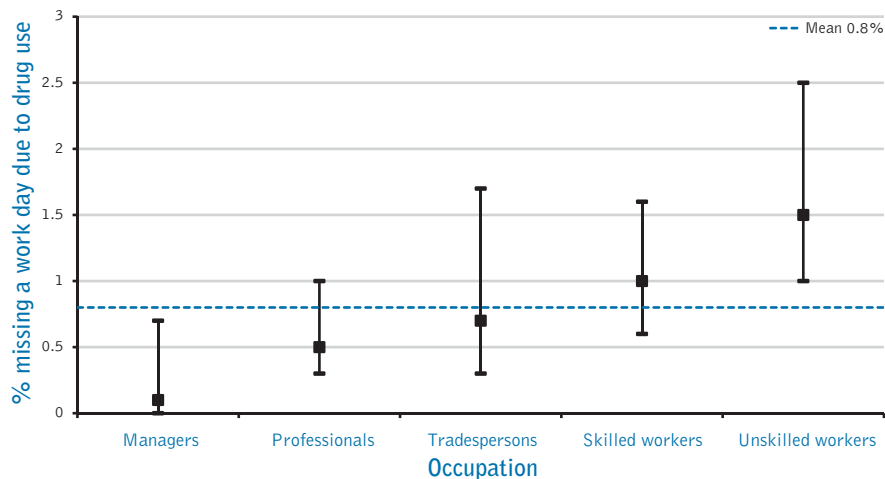


Figure 6.3 Proportions of employed 2004 NDSHS respondents missing one or more work days due to their drug use by occupation

6.3 POLYDRUG USE AND DRUG-RELATED ABSENTEEISM

Significant differences in drug-related absenteeism were observed between workers who used more than one drug and those using only one drug type ($F_{1, 1312} = 109.0, p = 0.000$). A larger proportion of polydrug users (11.0%, 95% CI 8.4%-14.2%, $n = 67$, weighted $n = 48,206$) reported missing a workday in the last three months due to their drug use compared to single drug users (0.7%, 95% CI 0.4%-1.4%, $n = 12$, weighted $n = 5,203$).

6.4 DAYS OFF FROM WORK DUE TO ILLNESS OR INJURY

6.4.1 Proportion of persons reporting days off work due to illness/injury

Nearly 40% (39.6%, 95% CI 38.5% - 40.7%, $n = 4,254$, weighted $n = 3,041,146$) of employed respondents to the 2004 NDSHS reported taking at least one day off work in the last three months due to any illness or injury. More than one in 10 workers took one day off (12.5% 95% CI 11.8% - 13.3%, $n = 1,332$, weighted $n = 433,428$), 10.8% took 2 days off (95% CI 10.1% - 11.5%, $n = 1,152$, weighted $n = 375,625$) and 16.2% took three or more days off (95%CI, 15.4% - 17.1%, $n = 1,170$, weighted $n = 583,533$).

6.4.2 Gender and age differences

Significant gender differences in illness/injury absenteeism were observed ($F_{1, 1807} = 18.5, p = 0.000$) with a larger proportion of females, compared to males, missing at least one work day in the last three months due to illness or injury (Table 6.5). Significant age differences in illness/injury absenteeism were also observed ($F_{4.8, 8727} = 44.0, p = 0.000$), with a larger proportion of workers aged 14-19 years missing a work day due to illness or injury in the last 3 months, compared to older workers. Similar significant age differences in illness/injury absenteeism were observed for male ($F_{4.6, 8379} = 20.8, p = 0.000$) and female ($F_{4.9, 8810} = 23.7, p = 0.000$) workers (Table 6.5).

Table 6.5 Proportions of employed respondents to the 2004 NDSHS who reported absenteeism in the past 3 months due to illness/injury

Age (years)		Female	Male	All
14-19	%	65.0	58.9	61.4
	95% CI	(56.6-72.5)	(49.7-67.6)	(55.0-67.4)
	Survey n	117	96	213
	Weighted n	72,405	96,296	168,701
20-29	%	54.0	45.1	49.0
	95% CI	(50.4-57.6)	(41.3-48.9)	(46.3-51.6)
	Survey n	591	454	1,045
	Weighted n	314,950	340,891	655,841
30-39	%	42.9	40.7	41.6
	95% CI	(39.9-45.9)	(37.8-43.7)	(39.5-43.7)
	Survey n	606	559	1,165
	Weighted n	268,326	375,359	643,685
40-49	%	38.3	33.1	35.5
	95% CI	(35.4-41.4)	(30.2-36.1)	(33.4-37.6)
	Survey n	571	457	1,028
	Weighted n	289,609	307,591	597,200
50-59	%	33.0	30.0	31.3
	95% CI	(29.7-36.4)	(27.0-33.2)	(29.1-33.6)
	Survey n	337	330	667
	Weighted n	161,622	189,449	351,071
60+	%	26.6	20.5	22.9
	95% CI	(19.8-34.8)	(16.3-25.5)	(19.0-27.3)
	Survey n	57	79	136
	Weighted n	33,061	39,507	72,567
Total	%	42.4	37.5	39.6
	95% CI	(40.8-44.0)	(36.0-39.1)	(38.5-40.7)
	Survey n	2,279	1,975	4,254
	Weighted n	1,139,972	1,349,093	2,489,066

6.4.3 Differences in illness/injury absenteeism due to drug use

Significant differences in illness/injury absenteeism were observed between employed respondents to the 2004 NDSHS who used drugs and those who did not use drugs ($F_{1, 1806} = 46.9, p = 0.000$). A larger proportion of drug users (47.9%, 95% CI 45.3%-50.6%, $n = 965$, weighted $n = 565,196$) reported missing one or more work days in the last three months due to illness or injury compared to non-drug users (37.7%, 95% CI 36.5%-39.0%, $n = 3,264$, weighted $n = 1,906,227$).

6.4.4 Polydrug use, frequency of use and illness/injury absenteeism

There were no significant differences in illness/injury absenteeism between workers who used drugs daily, weekly, or less often.

There were significant differences in illness/injury absenteeism between single drug users and polydrug users ($F_{1, 1313} = 12.4, p = 0.001$). A significantly larger proportion of polydrug users (54.3%, 95% CI 49.7%-58.7%, $n = 390$, weighted $n = 237,322$) compared to single drug users (44.2%, 95% CI 41.0%-47.5%, $n = 575$, weighted $n = 327,875$) reported missing one or more work days in the last three months due to illness or injury.

CHAPTER 7

DRUG USE AND RISK TO WORKPLACE SAFETY AND PRODUCTIVITY

KEY POINTS

1. A minority of workers (fewer than 5%) reported undertaking risky activities while under the influence of drugs
2. The most prevalent activity undertaken while under the influence of drugs was driving a motor vehicle (4.4%) followed by attending work (2.5%) and operating hazardous machinery (0.6%)
3. A small proportion (1.2%) of the workforce reported usually using drugs at work
4. Male workers were more likely to report undertaking activities under the influence of drugs and usually using drugs at work than female workers
5. Driving a motor vehicle or attending work under the influence and usually using drugs at work was more prevalent among workers aged 20-29 years compared to other age groups
6. Operating hazardous machinery while under the influence of drugs was more prevalent among workers aged 14-19 years compared to other age groups.

7.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter highlights potential drug-related risks to safety and productivity and identifies the prevalence of drug use at work and activities workers report engaging in while under the influence of drugs. Employed respondents to the 2004 NDSHS were asked questions concerning three activities they had undertaken in the past 12 months while under the influence of drugs that were relevant to the workplace: attending work, driving a motor vehicle and operating hazardous machinery. Of these activities, attending work while under the influence of drugs has the most direct relationship with workplace safety and productivity. The remaining two activities - driving a motor vehicle and operating hazardous machinery - may or may not have been undertaken by workers during work hours, however, these two activities provide an indication of the probability of a worker undertaking work-related behaviours while under the influence of drugs.

In addition to activities undertaken while under the influence of drugs, employed respondents to the 2004 NDSHS were also asked if the workplace was a location where they usually used drugs. The proportion of respondents who use drugs in the workplace may be underestimated or overestimated by this measure due to ambiguity in the wording of this question. Respondents were asked to nominate, from 11 different options, locations where they usually used drugs. The question could be interpreted as 'where do you most frequently use drugs?' or alternatively 'what are the settings where you usually use drugs?' The former interpretation may prompt respondents to choose only one location (e.g. home) instead of a number of locations that are applicable to them (e.g. home, workplace etc).

7.2 ACTIVITIES UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF DRUGS

The most prevalent activity undertaken in the last 12 months while under the influence of drugs was driving a motor vehicle, with 4.4% of employed respondents to the 2004 NDSHS reporting this activity (Table 7.1). Less than 1 % reported operating hazardous machinery, while 2.5% reported attending work under the influence and 1.2% usually used drugs at work (Table 7.1).

The drugs most commonly used at work were painkillers/analgesics, with 0.5% (95% CI 0.4%-0.7%, $n = 79$, weighted $n = 44,654$) of employed respondents to the 2004 NDSHS reporting use at work and cannabis with 0.5% (95% CI 0.4%-0.7%, $n = 73$, weighted $n = 48,198$) reporting use at work. The next most commonly used drug at work was methamphetamine/amphetamine with 0.3% (95% CI 0.3%-0.5%, $n = 48$, weighted $n = 31,563$) of workers reporting they used this drug at work. Fewer than 0.1% of workers reported the use of other types of drugs at work.

7.2.1 Gender differences

Significant gender differences were observed for attending work under the influence ($F_{1,1823} = 60.4$, $p = 0.000$), driving a motor vehicle under the influence, ($F_{1,1823} = 84.0$, $p = 0.000$), operating hazardous machinery under the influence ($F_{1,1823} = 63.7$, $p = 0.000$) and usually using drugs at work ($F_{1,1797} = 6.5$, $p = 0.01$). Compared to female workers a larger proportion of male workers reported these activities (Table 7.1).

Table 7.1 Differences in proportions of employed respondents to the 2004 NDSHS who, in the last 12 months, had attended work, drove a vehicle, or operated hazardous machinery under the influence of drugs, or usually used drugs at work by gender

Gender		Went to work	Drove a vehicle	Operate haz/mach	Usually use at workplace
Females	%	1.2	2.5	0.0	0.9
	95% CI	(1.0-1.5)	(2.1-2.9)	(0.0-0.1)	(0.7-1.2)
	Survey n	91	193	4	69
	Weighted n	47,655	95,659	1,911	36,753
Males	%	3.5	5.9	0.9	1.5
	95% CI	(3.0-4.1)	(5.2-6.6)	(0.7-1.3)	(1.2-1.8)
	Survey n	265	455	76	116
	Weighted n	180,129	300,647	48,651	74,828
All workers	%	2.5	4.4	0.6	1.2
	95% CI	(2.2-2.9)	(4.0-4.9)	(0.4-0.7)	(1.0-1.5)
	Survey n	356	648	80	185
	Weighted n	227,784	396,306	50,561	111,581

7.2.2 Age differences

Significant age differences were observed in the proportions of employed respondents to the 2004 NDSHS who reported attending work under the influence ($F_{4,6, 8422} = 35.4, p = 0.000$), driving a motor vehicle under the influence ($F_{4,5, 8233} = 53.4, p = 0.000$), operating hazardous machinery under the influence ($F_{4, 7350} = 7.8, p = 0.000$), and usually using drugs at work ($F_{4,8, 8608} = 11.7, p = 0.000$). In general these activities peaked at age 20-29 years and then declined with age, the only exception being operating hazardous machinery which was most prevalent in the 14-19 year age group (Table 7.2).

Table 7.2 Differences in proportions of employed respondents to the 2004 NDSHS who, in the last 12 months, had attended work, drove a vehicle, or operated hazardous machinery under the influence of drugs, or usually used drugs at work by age

Age (years)		Went to work	Drove a vehicle	Operate haz/mach	Usually use at workplace
14-19	%	5.5	5.4	1.8	1.7
	95% CI	(3.6-8.3)	(3.6-8.2)	(0.7-4.5)	(1.0-3.1)
	Survey n	32	35	8	14
	Weighted n	21,623	21,429	6,955	6,993
20-29	%	5.9	9.9	1.1	2.5
	95% CI	(4.8-7.2)	(8.4-11.7)	(0.7-1.8)	(1.8-3.3)
	Survey n	151	265	30	68
	Weighted n	107,633	182,054	21,071	45,559
30-39	%	3.0	5.7	0.7	1.3
	95% CI	(2.3-3.8)	(4.9-6.7)	(0.4-1.1)	(0.9-1.9)
	Survey n	106	211	25	47
	Weighted n	64,004	124,440	14,583	28,962
40-49	%	1.2	2.4	0.3	0.9
	95% CI	(0.9-1.7)	(1.8-3.1)	(0.1-0.6)	(0.7-1.3)
	Survey n	51	110	12	40
	Weighted n	29,003	55,936	6,739	22,462
50-59	%	0.3	0.7	0.1	0.3
	95% CI	(0.2-0.6)	(0.5-1.0)	(0.0-0.2)	(0.1-0.5)
	Survey n	16	27	5	12
	Weighted n	5,522	12,448	1,214	4,502
60+	%	0	0	0	0.6
	95% CI	-	-	-	(0.2-1.4)
	Survey n	0	0	0	5
	Weighted n				3,104
All workers	%	2.5	4.4	0.6	1.2
	95% CI	(2.2-2.9)	(4.0-4.9)	(0.4-0.7)	(1.0-1.5)
	Survey n	356	648	80	185
	Weighted n	227,784	396,306	50,561	111,581

Note: Caution should be applied when interpreting statistics associated with small cell sizes.

7.2.3 Differences between industry groups

Significant differences were observed among industry groups in the proportions of workers who reported attending work under the influence of drugs ($F_{10, 18255} = 7.65, p = 0.000$), driving a vehicle under the influence of drugs ($F_{10.3, 18739} = 8.7, p = 0.000$), operating hazardous machinery under the influence of drugs ($F_{9.7, 17715} = 4.4, p = 0.000$) and usually using drugs at work ($F_{9.8, 17528} = 3.0, p = 0.001$).

The largest proportion of workers who reported attending work under the influence of drugs, in the 12 months prior to the survey, was employed in the hospitality industry (Table 7.3). The hospitality industry also had the largest proportion of workers reporting they drove under the influence of drugs and the largest proportion usually using drugs at work, while the construction industry had the largest proportion of workers reporting operating hazardous machinery while under the influence of drugs (Table 7.3). However, due to the relatively small sample sizes in each cell, caution should be applied when interpreting industry differences.

Table 7.3 Differences in proportions of employed respondents to the 2004 NDSHS who, in the last 12 months, had attended work, drove a vehicle, or operated hazardous machinery under the influence of drugs, or usually used drugs at work by industry

Industry		Went to work	Drove a vehicle	Operate haz/ mach	Usually use at workplace
Agriculture	%	3.1	7.4	2.0	2.0
	95% CI	(1.6-5.8)	(4.6-11.6)	(0.9-4.7)	(0.8-5.1)
	Survey n	11	25	7	7
	Weighted n	7,250	17,544	4,817	4,863
Mining	%	1.0	1.9	0.0	1.4
	95% CI	(0.3-3.6)	(0.7-4.6)		(0.4-4.7)
	Survey n	3	6	0.0	3
	Weighted n	1,466	2,624		1,981
Manufacturing	%	2.7	3.9	0.8	1.4
	95% CI	(1.8-4.0)	(2.8-5.3)	(0.4-1.8)	(0.8-2.4)
	Survey n	37	57	11	19
	Weighted n	24,463	35,179	7,651	12,633
Construction	%	4.2	7.5	1.7	1.4
	95% CI	(3.1-5.8)	(5.9-9.5)	(1.0-2.8)	(0.9-2.2)
	Survey n	52	92	21	24
	Weighted n	33,920	60,207	13,422	11,463
Wholesale	%	0.7	2.4	0	0.5
	95% CI	(0.2-2.9)	(1.1-5.1)		(0.1-3.3)
	Survey n	2	7	0	1
	Weighted n	1,292	4,385		971
Retail	%	3.1	5.1	0.5	1.5
	95% CI	(2.2-4.3)	(4.1-6.4)	(0.3-1.0)	(1.0-2.3)
	Survey n	56	94	10	27
	Weighted n	35,257	57,902	5,643	17,422
Hospitality	%	7.7	10.3	0.7	3.4
	95% CI	(5.5-10.8)	(7.8-13.6)	(0.2-2.1)	(2.0-5.6)
	Survey n	43	64	4	19
	Weighted n	27,761	37,135	2,580	12,160
Transport	%	3.2	5.1	0.5	2.0
	95% CI	(1.8-5.5)	(3.3-7.8)	(0.2-1.7)	(1.0-3.9)
	Survey n	16	28	4	14
	Weighted n	13,223	21,171	2,180	8,135
Finance	%	1.8	3.6	0.2	1.1
	95% CI	(1.1-2.8)	(2.8-4.6)	(0.1-0.6)	(0.7-1.8)
	Survey n	35	80	5	25
	Weighted n	25,535	51,230	3,194	15,881
Administration	%	1.6	3.1	0.0	0.5
	95% CI	(0.9-2.9)	(1.9-4.9)		(0.2-1.3)
	Survey n	18	33	0.0	6
	Weighted n	6,650	12,963		2,291

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Table 7.3 (continued)

Education	%	0.7	1.8	0.1	0.3
	95% CI	(0.3-1.3)	(1.2-2.6)	(0.0-0.5)	(0.1-0.6)
	Survey n	11	26	1	6
	Weighted n	5,163	13,392	508	1,966
Services	%	2.0	3.8	0.3	1.0
	95% CI	(1.5-2.7)	(3.1-4.8)	(0.1-0.6)	(0.6-1.6)
	Survey n	59	115	11	27
	Weighted n	35,850	68,432	5,456	17,990
All workers	%	2.5	4.5	0.5	1.3
	95% CI	(2.2-2.9)	(4.0-5.0)	(0.4-0.7)	(1.0-1.5)
	Survey n	343	627	74	178
	Weighted n	217,830	382,165	45,450	107,754

Note: Caution should be applied when interpreting statistics associated with small cell sizes.

7.2.4 Differences between occupational groups

Significant differences were observed between occupations in the proportions of workers who reported attending work under the influence of drugs ($F_{3,9, 7179} = 6.5, p = 0.000$), driving a motor vehicle ($F_{4,0, 7238} = 6.0, p = 0.000$), operating hazardous machinery under the influence of drugs ($F_{3,9, 7140} = 5.7, p = 0.000$) and usually using drugs at work ($F_{3,9, 7011} = 5.4, p = 0.001$).

The largest proportions of workers who reported attending work in the last 12 months while under the influence of drugs were tradespersons and unskilled workers (Table 7.4). The largest proportions of workers reporting driving a motor vehicle, or operating hazardous machinery in the last 12 months while under the influence of drugs were tradespersons, while usually using drugs at work was also more prevalent among tradespersons compared to other occupations (Table 7.4).

Table 7.4 Differences in proportions of employed respondents to the 2004 NDSHS who attended work, drove a vehicle, or operated hazardous machinery under the influence of drugs, or usually used drugs at work by occupation

Occupation		Went to work	Drove a vehicle	Operate haz/ mach	Usually use at workplace
Managers	%	2.6	4.2	0.4	1.0
	95% CI	(1.7-4.1)	(3.0-5.8)	(0.1-1.4)	(0.6-1.8)
	Survey n	33	60	3	16
	Weighted n	25,773	40,770	4,163	10,645
Professionals	%	1.5	3.3	0.2	0.6
	95% CI	(1.0-2.1)	(2.7-4.1)	(0.1-0.4)	(0.4-0.9)
	Survey n	57	141	8	34
	Weighted n	36,445	82,826	3,950	17,098
Tradespersons	%	4.3	7.5	1.7	2.1
	95% CI	(3.1-5.9)	(5.9-9.6)	(1.0-2.9)	(1.3-3.5)
	Survey n	51	99	23	25
	Weighted n	32,969	58,381	13,413	17,003
Skilled workers	%	3.1	4.8	0.8	1.7
	95% CI	(2.5-3.9)	(4.0-5.8)	(0.5-1.2)	(1.3-2.2)
	Survey n	115	190	29	68
	Weighted n	77,683	120,224	19,135	41,966
Unskilled workers	%	4.0	4.4	0.5	1.5
	95% CI	(3.0-5.3)	(3.4-5.6)	(0.2-1.2)	(1.0-2.2)
	Survey n	85	118	11	34
	Weighted n	56,204	61,639	7,260	20,969
Total	%	2.8	4.5	0.6	1.3
	95% CI	(2.5-3.2)	(4.0-4.9)	(0.4-0.8)	(1.1-1.5)
	Survey n	341	608	74	177
	Weighted n	229,073	363,840	47,921	107,680

CHAPTER 8

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