

Midpoint scorecard National Drug Strategy 2017-2026.

Alcohol and Drug Foundation

The *National Drug Strategy 2017-2026* (the Strategy) is the key document guiding the development and implementation of alcohol and other drug policy in Australia. At a time when harms from alcohol and other drugs are increasing significantly, it is vital that the federal government is showing leadership by implementing evidence-based policies to minimise alcohol and other drug harm.

The Strategy commits the government to progress reports every three years of the Strategy in 2018, 2021, 2024 and 2027, in addition to a thorough midpoint review due in 2021-22 to “provide an opportunity to identify any new priorities, emerging issues or challenges.” The indicators below were included in the strategy to measure its progress in minimising harm.

National Drug Strategy Monitoring and Reporting Indicators

Measure	Sub-measure	Baseline	Current
Increasing the average age of uptake of drugs, by type ^{1,4}	Illicit drugs	19.7 years	19.5 years
	Alcohol	17.3 years	17.2 years
	Smoking	16.4 years	16.6 years
Reduction of the recent drug use of any drug ^{1,4,#}	Last 12-month illicit drug	15.60%	17.9%
	Harmful use of alcohol: Lifetime	26.2%	24.6%
	Harmful use of alcohol: Short term	25.7%	23.8%
	Daily tobacco 14+	12.20%	8.3%
Reduction in arrestees’ illicit drug use ^{2,5}	Detainees testing positive	73%	77%
Reduction in the number of victims of drug-related incidents ^{1,4}	Victims of illicit drug related incidents last 12 months	9.30%	10.1%
	Victims of alcohol-related incidents in the last 12 months	22.20%	21.1%
Reduction in the drug related burden of disease ^{3,6}	Illicit Drugs	2.4%	3.0%
	Alcohol	4.6%	4.5%
	Tobacco	9.4%	8.6%

Green indicates improvement in measure **Yellow** indicates limited change in measure **Red** indicates worsening in measure

Baseline data:

1. National Drug Strategy Household Survey 2016
2. Drug Use Monitoring in Australia 2013-14
3. Australian Burden of Disease Study 2018, age-standardised data for 2011 baseline year
- # Baseline harmful use of alcohol data is sourced from the 2019 NDSHS and analysed with the 2020 NHMRC alcohol guidelines

Current data:

4. National Drug Strategy Household Survey 2022-23
5. Drug Use Monitoring in Australia 2021
6. Australian Burden of Disease Study 2018, age-standardised 2018 data