

## Illicit drug use – Individual drugs

<b>Age Cohorts</b>	Younger
<b>Surveys</b>	Survey 2
<b>Derived Variables</b>	See 'Ever used' (next page)
<b>Definition</b>	Ever used a particular illicit drug
<b>Source Items</b>	Question 62 A: a, c to k
<b>Statistical Form</b>	Categorical variables
<b>Index Number</b>	See 'Ever used' (next page)
<b>Derived Variables</b>	See 'Currently use' (next page)
<b>Definition</b>	Currently use a particular illicit drug (i.e. used that drug in the last 12 months)
<b>Source Items</b>	Question 62C: a, c to k
<b>Statistical Form</b>	Categorical variables
<b>Index Number</b>	See 'Currently use' (next page)
<b>Derived Variables</b>	See 'Age of initiation' (next page)
<b>Definition</b>	Age of initiation for a particular illicit drug
<b>Source Items</b>	Question 62B: a, c to k
<b>Statistical Form</b>	Continuous variables
<b>Index Number</b>	See 'Age of initiation' (next page)
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<b>Endorsed</b>	25 June 2003

<b>Illicit Drug</b>	<b>Derived Variable</b>	<b>Index Number</b>
<b>Ever used</b>		
Cannabis	Marij	DRUG-049
Amphetamines	Amphet	DRUG-042
Ecstasy/designer drugs	Ecstacy	DRUG-045
LSD	LSD	DRUG-048
Cocaine	Cocaine	DRUG-044
Natural hallucinogens	NatHal	DRUG-050
Tranquillisers	Tranq	DRUG-051
Inhalants	Inhal	DRUG-047
Heroin	Heroin	DRUG-046
Barbiturates	Barbit	DRUG-043
<b>Currently use</b>		
Cannabis	Marij12	DRUG-069
Amphetamines	Amphet12	DRUG-062
Ecstasy/designer drugs	Ecst12	DRUG-065
LSD	LSD12	DRUG-068
Cocaine	Coce12	DRUG-064
Natural hallucinogens	NatHal12	DRUG-070
Tranquillisers	Tranq12	DRUG-071
Inhalants	Inhal12	DRUG-067
Heroin	Heroin12	DRUG-066
Barbiturates	Barbit12	DRUG-063
<b>Age of initiation</b>		
Cannabis	AgeMarij	DRUG-059
Amphetamines	AgeAmphet	DRUG-052
Ecstasy/designer drugs	AgeEcst	DRUG-055
LSD	AgeLSD	DRUG-058
Cocaine	AgeCoce	DRUG-054
Natural hallucinogens	AgeNatHal	DRUG-060
Tranquillisers	AgeTranq	DRUG-061
Inhalants	AgeInhal	DRUG-057
Heroin	AgeHeroin	DRUG-056
Barbiturates	AgeBarbit	DRUG-053

## Source Items - Survey 2

Items concerning illicit drug use were based on the 1998 National Drug Strategy Household Survey (AIHW 1998). The drug classes included were:

- a Marijuana (cannabis, hash, grass, dope, pot, yandi)
- b Analgesics (e.g., aspirin, paracetamol, mersyndol)
- c Amphetamines (eg speed, uppers, methylamphetamine, MDA)
- d LSD (acid, trips)
- e Natural hallucinogens (eg magic mushrooms)
- f Tranquillisers (eg tranks, sleepers, Mandrax, Serepax, Rohypnol)
- g Cocaine (coke, crack, blow)
- h Ecstasy/designer drugs (eg E, eccies, MDMA)
- i Inhalants (eg glue, petrol, solvents)
- j Heroin (smack, junk)
- k Barbiturates (eg barbs, downers, purple hearts)
- l Steroids

**62. The following question asks about the use of drugs for NON-MEDICINAL purposes.** We want to know about general patterns of use. Please do not give details of specific instances of use.

If you have **NEVER** used any of these drugs, *mark here*

Code	Response
0	Have used at least 1 drug
1	Never used any drug

**a. Have you EVER tried this? Mark if YES**

Code	Response
0	Never used this drug
1	Yes
8	Never used any drug

**IF YES to part a for any drug, answer parts b and c for that drug**

**b. At about what age did you first try this?**

Code	Response
Age in years	Age between 0 and 30 years
88 <sup>1</sup>	Never used any drug
99 <sup>1</sup>	Never used this drug

<sup>1</sup> coded values are assigned to missing in the statistical analysis of ages.

c. **Have you used it in the LAST 12 MONTHS? Mark if YES**

Code	Response
0	No
1	Yes
8	Never used any drug
9	Never used this drug

The ages reported for the first use of analgesics and steroids (items b and l) strongly suggested that women had included medicinal use when reporting their use of illicit drugs.<sup>1</sup> As this was not the intended meaning of the question, responses to items concerning these drugs were deleted from the dataset. Responses concerning the remaining ten drugs were used to create derived variables.

**Derived Variables**

For each of the remaining ten illicit drugs, women were classified *separately* as ‘ever used’ that drug and as a ‘current user’ of that drug according to the following definitions.

	Yes	No
<b>Ever Used</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ ‘Yes’ to part a for that drug</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ ‘No’ to part a for that drug</li> <li>○ ‘No’ to part a for all 10 drugs</li> </ul>
<b>Current user</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ ‘Yes’ to part c for that drug</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ ‘No’ to part c for that drug</li> <li>○ ‘No’ to part a for all 10 drugs</li> </ul>

The prevalence of ever using and currently using each illicit drug as well as the mean and standard deviation for age of initiation are shown in Table 1.

**Table 1 Prevalence of ever using and current use of illicit drugs and mean age of initiation of use (n = 9 514)**

	Percent Ever used	Percent used in the last 12 months	Age of initiation	
			Mean	SD
Cannabis	55.5	23.0	17.2	2.5
Amphetamines	14.7	7.4	19.6	2.6
Ecstasy/designer drugs	12.5	7.9	20.8	2.5
LSD	12.6	2.8	18.7	2.3
Cocaine	5.1	2.2	21.1	2.4
Natural hallucinogens	4.8	0.7	18.6	2.7
Tranquillisers	4.6	1.7	19.9	2.9
Inhalants	1.7	0.2	16.3	2.9
Heroin	1.2	0.4	19.9	2.4
Barbiturates	0.5	0.1	18.9	2.7

The SAS code defining use of individual illicit drugs at Survey 2 is:

```
/******  
***          Create new drug variables          ***  
*** Assign meaningful names to existing variables ***  
*****/  
array q62A {10}      y2q62Aa y2q62Ac y2q62Ad y2q62Ae y2q62Af  
                    y2q62Ag y2q62Ah y2q62Ai y2q62Aj y2q62Ak ;  
array q62B {10}      y2q62Ba y2q62Bc y2q62Bd y2q62Be y2q62Bf  
                    y2q62Bg y2q62Bh y2q62Bi y2q62Bj y2q62Bk ;  
array q62C {10}      y2q62Ca y2q62Cc y2q62Cd y2q62Ce y2q62Cf  
                    y2q62Cg y2q62Ch y2q62Ci y2q62Cj y2q62Ck ;  
array intq62C {10}intq62Ca intq62Cc intq62Cd intq62Ce intq62Cf  
                    intq62Cg intq62Ch intq62Ci intq62Cj intq62Ck ;  
array EachDrug {10}y2Marij  y2Amphet  y2LSD  y2NatHal y2Tranq  
                    y2Cocaine y2Ecstacy y2Inhal y2Heroin y2Barbit ;  
array AgeDrug {10}y2AgeMarij y2AgeAmphet y2AgeLSD y2AgeNatHal y2AgeTranq  
                    y2AgeCocoe y2AgeEcst y2AgeInhal y2AgeHeroin  
                    y2AgeBarbit ;  
array q62L12m {10}y2Marij12 y2Amphet12 y2LSD12 y2NatHal12  
                    y2Tranq12 y2Cocoe12 y2Ecst12 y2Inhal12 y2Heroin12  
                    y2Barbit12 ;  
/******  
*** Classify each illicit drug as 'Used in the past 12 months' ***  
*** 0 = 'Not used in the past 12 months' ***  
*** 1 = 'Used in the past 12 months' ***  
*****/  
do i = 1 to 10 ;  
    if q62A{i}=. then q62L12m{i}=. ;  
    else if q62A{i}=1 then q62L12m{i}=q62C{i} ;  
    else if q62A{i}in (0,8) then q62L12m{i}=0 ;  
end ;  
/******  
*** Classify each illicit drug as used or not used ***  
*** 0 = 'Not used illicit drug' ***  
*** 1 = 'Used illicit drug' ***  
*****/  
do i = 1 to 10 ;  
    if q62A{i}=. then EachDrug{i}=. ;  
    else if q62A{i}=1 then EachDrug{i}=1 ;  
    else if q62A{i} in (0,8) then EachDrug{i}=0 ;  
end ;  
/****** Re-name ages of initiation *****/;  
do i = 1 to 10 ;  
    agedrug{i} = q62B{i} ;  
end ;
```

## Reference

2. Australian Longitudinal Study on Womens' Health. *Illicit Drug Responses-Younger Survey 2*  
[www.newcastle.edu.au/centre/wha/infodata/techrep.html](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/centre/wha/infodata/techrep.html) [Accessed 16 July 2004]