

ICE: KEY FACTS AND FIGURES

- Use of ice is increasing. Evidence suggests methamphetamine is now the second most commonly used illegal drug in Australia after cannabis and is now more common than ecstasy, cocaine and heroin.
- Since 2009 the global market for ice has increased significantly. Criminal groups are producing ice in more countries and in greater quantities than ever before.
- The growth in the Australian ice market has outstripped global trends – the weight of ice seized at the Australian border grew almost 60 times between 2010 and 2014.
- Organised crime is heavily involved in the importation, domestic manufacture and distribution of ice. The Australian Crime Commission estimates 60% of criminal groups on the National Criminal Target List are involved in the ice market – that is the criminal organisations assessed as the highest threat to the community.
- The lucrative market for ice in Australia has attracted criminal groups from all over the world. The median price paid per gram for ice in Australia is higher than in most countries.
- The price per kilogram for ice in Australia is 80 times higher than the price of a kilogram of ice in China.
- 70% of the total weight of detections shipped to Australia came from China (including Hong Kong) from 2010-11 to 2013-14.
- In recent years, there has been an increase in the use of ice in regional and remote communities. Organised criminals are exploiting this demand with outlaw motorcycle gangs making a steep profit.
- The number of users seeking treatment where methamphetamines were the principal drug of concern increased from 10,027 episodes in 2009-10 to 28,886 episodes in 2013-14.
- Treatment episodes for meth/amphetamines are now the third most common, behind treatments for alcohol and cannabis.
- Ice is an emerging issue for some Indigenous communities. Between 2007 and 2013, reported methamphetamine use among Indigenous Australians increased from 2.3 per cent to 3.1 per cent.
- Since 2009-10, the number of episodes provided to Indigenous Australians where methamphetamines were the principal drug of concern more than tripled.