

# Illicit drug

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# Illicit drug

## Identifying and definitional attributes

**Metadata item type:** Glossary Item

**Synonymous names:** Illegal drug

**METEOR identifier:** 413485

**Registration status:** [Community Services \(retired\)](#), Standard 06/02/2012  
[Health!](#), Standard 28/04/2016

**Definition:** An illicit drug is defined as any drug which is illegal to possess or use or any legal drug used in an illegal manner, for example:

- a drug obtained on prescription but given or sold to another person to use
- glue or petrol which is sold legally, but is used in a manner that is not intended, such as inhaling fumes
- stolen pharmaceuticals sold on the black market (e.g. Pethidine)

## Collection and usage attributes

**Comments:** The 2007 National Drug Strategy Household Survey report defines illicit drugs as illegal drugs (such as marijuana/cannabis), prescription or over-the-counter pharmaceuticals (such as analgesics/pain-killers or tranquillisers/sleeping pills) used for illicit purposes, and other substances used inappropriately (such as naturally occurring hallucinogens and inhalants).

## Source and reference attributes

**Submitting organisation:** Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

**Origin:** AIHW (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare) 2008. 2007 National Drug Strategy Household Survey: first results. Drug Statistics Series number 20.Cat. no. PHE 98. Canberra: AIHW.

## Relational attributes

**Metadata items which use this glossary item:** [Person—substance used illicitly indicator, yes/no/not stated/inadequately described code N](#)

[Community Services \(retired\)](#), Standard 06/02/2012  
[Health!](#), Superseded 28/04/2016

[Prisoner health NBEDS](#)  
[Health!](#), Recorded 04/06/2018

[Prisoner health NBEDS](#)  
[Health!](#), Standard 28/04/2016