

Extra analysis on synthetic cannabis survey for NSW Inquiry

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This table shows the employment status of 316 Australians who had reported use of synthetic cannabis.

78% of the sample reported current employment. 49% reported full-time employment. The rate of unemployment was 5.7%, similar to general population figures.

		Frequency	Percent of responses	Percent of cases
ftwork	Full-time work	155	44.67	49.05
ptwork	Part time or casual work	60	17.29	18.99
selfemployed	Self-employed	31	8.93	9.81
ftstudy	Full-time student	44	12.68	13.92
ptstudy	Part-time student	15	4.32	4.75
unemployed	Unemployed (looking for work)	18	5.19	5.70
benefits	Benefits/pension	8	2.31	2.53
homeduties	Home duties	7	2.02	2.22
retired	Retired	3	0.86	0.95
notseeking	Not seeking work	6	1.73	1.90
Total		347	100.00	109.81

Currently employed	Freq.	Percent	Cum.
No	70	22.15	22.15
Yes	246	77.85	100.00
Total	316	100.00	

Of the 246 employed synthetic cannabis users, 244 provided their industry of employment. All were also asked whether their employment subjects them to drug testing. 33 (14%) reported being drug tested.

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The following table lists the different industries of employment by whether the individual reported being required to undergo drug testing by their employer.

Industries reporting the highest rates of drug testing where mining (90%), transport, postal and warehousing (55%), public administration (33%), manufacturing (29%), rental, hiring and real estate services (25%), and construction (24%). The industries most represented in our sample of synthetic cannabis users were least likely to have workplace drug testing: retail (2%), professionals (9%) and information media/technology (7%).

These figures should be viewed with caution given the small numbers in many industries.

Industry of employment	Required by employer		Total
	No	Yes	
Agriculture, forestry	7 100.00	0 0.00	7 100.00
Mining	1 10.00	9 90.00	10 100.00
Manufacturing	5 71.43	2 28.57	7 100.00
Electricity, gas, water	1 100.00	0 0.00	1 100.00
Construction	13 76.47	4 23.53	17 100.00
Wholesale trade	3 100.00	0 0.00	3 100.00
Retail trade	43 97.73	1 2.27	44 100.00
Accommodation and food	8 100.00	0 0.00	8 100.00
Transport, postal and warehousing	5 45.45	6 54.55	11 100.00
Information media and telecommunications	28 93.33	2 6.67	30 100.00
Financial and insurance	7 87.50	1 12.50	8 100.00
Rental, hiring and real estate services	3 75.00	1 25.00	4 100.00
Professional, scientific and technical	29 90.63	3 9.38	32 100.00
Administrative and support	11 100.00	0 0.00	11 100.00
Public administration	4 66.67	2 33.33	6 100.00
Education and training	15 100.00	0 0.00	15 100.00
Health care and social assistance	18 90.00	2 10.00	20 100.00
Arts and recreation services	10 100.00	0 0.00	10 100.00
Total	211 86.48	33 13.52	244 100.00

Industry categories were sourced from ABS 1292.0 - Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC), 2006 (Revision 1.0).