

# Wastewater drug testing in New Zealand: Quarter One 2020 Findings

## National Overview

### NOTES

- Wastewater testing occurs during one week per month, however the frequency of testing varies between sites. Nationwide testing started in November 2018, and testing sites cover approximately 75 percent of the total New Zealand population.
- Q1 2020 covers the reporting period November to January 2020 (inclusive). However, there was no data available for South Auckland in November and December, and as a result the weekly average is approximately 1kg less than it would have been.

### KEY FINDINGS

- National methamphetamine consumption decreased moderately throughout Q1, and observed the lowest average use when compared to the previous three quarters. Average weekly methamphetamine use decreased slightly from 13.6 kg in Q4 2019, to 13.1 kg in Q1 2020. Throughout Q1 2020, methamphetamine use was most prevalent per capita in the Eastern, Northland, and Bay of Plenty Police Districts.
- MDMA consumption increased slightly throughout Q1 2020, continuing the upward trend observed over the previous three quarters of reporting. National MDMA consumption increased from a weekly average of 8.2 kg in Q4 2019 to 8.7 kg in Q1 2020. Per capita, MDMA use was most prevalent in Southern District throughout Q1 2020, followed by Tāmaki Makaurau and Canterbury.
- National cocaine consumption increased from a weekly average of 1 kg in Q4 2019 to 1.2 kg in Q1 2020, an increase of 16 percent between quarters. In Q1 2020, per capita cocaine use was significantly higher in the Auckland region than anywhere else in the country.
- Comparing the average national weekly consumption between Q2 2019 (February 2019 – April 2019) and Q1 2020, national methamphetamine use has decreased five percent. In the same time period, cocaine use has increased by 43 percent, and MDMA use by 55 percent.

### WEEKLY NATIONAL DRUG USE

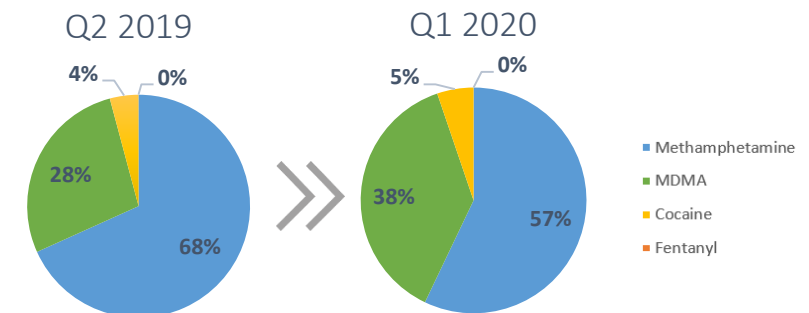
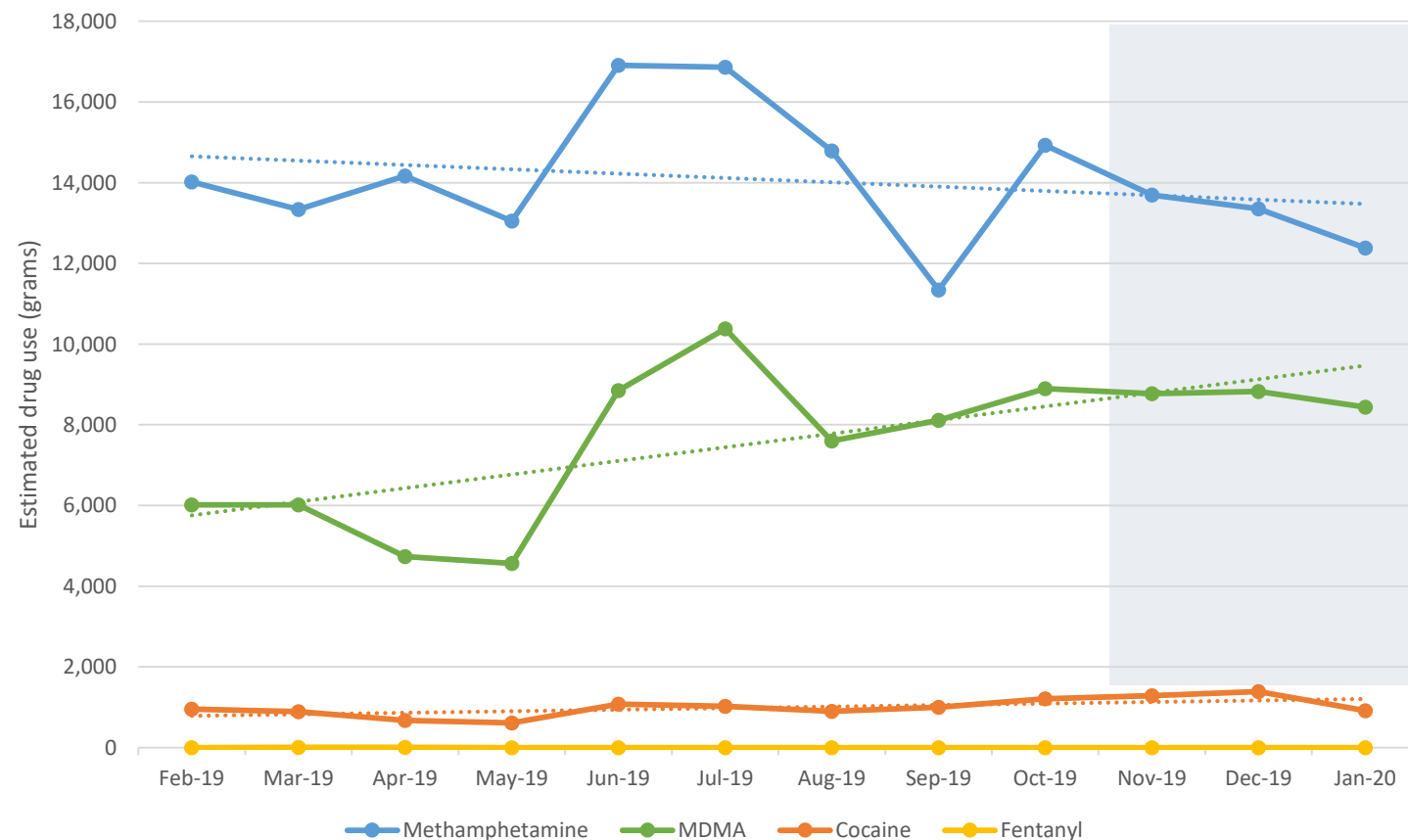


Figure 1: Proportions of national total drug use by commodity

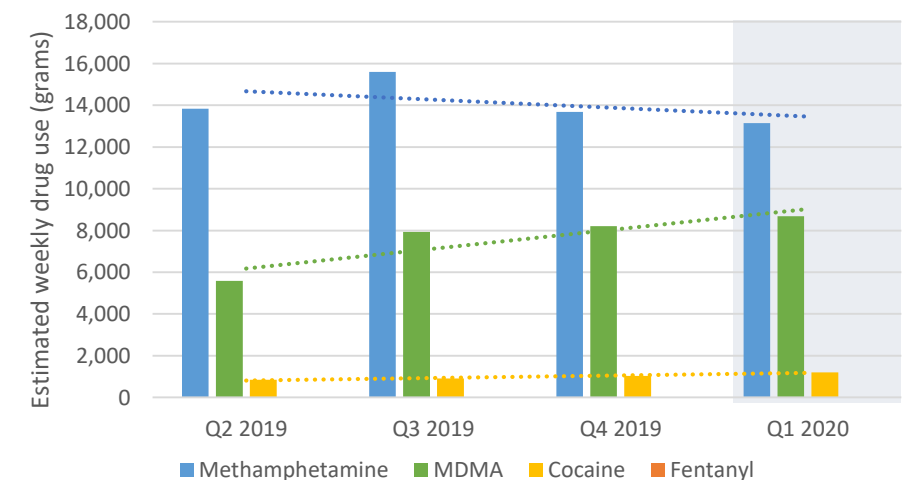


Figure 2: Estimated national weekly drug use by commodity