

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

## National Overview

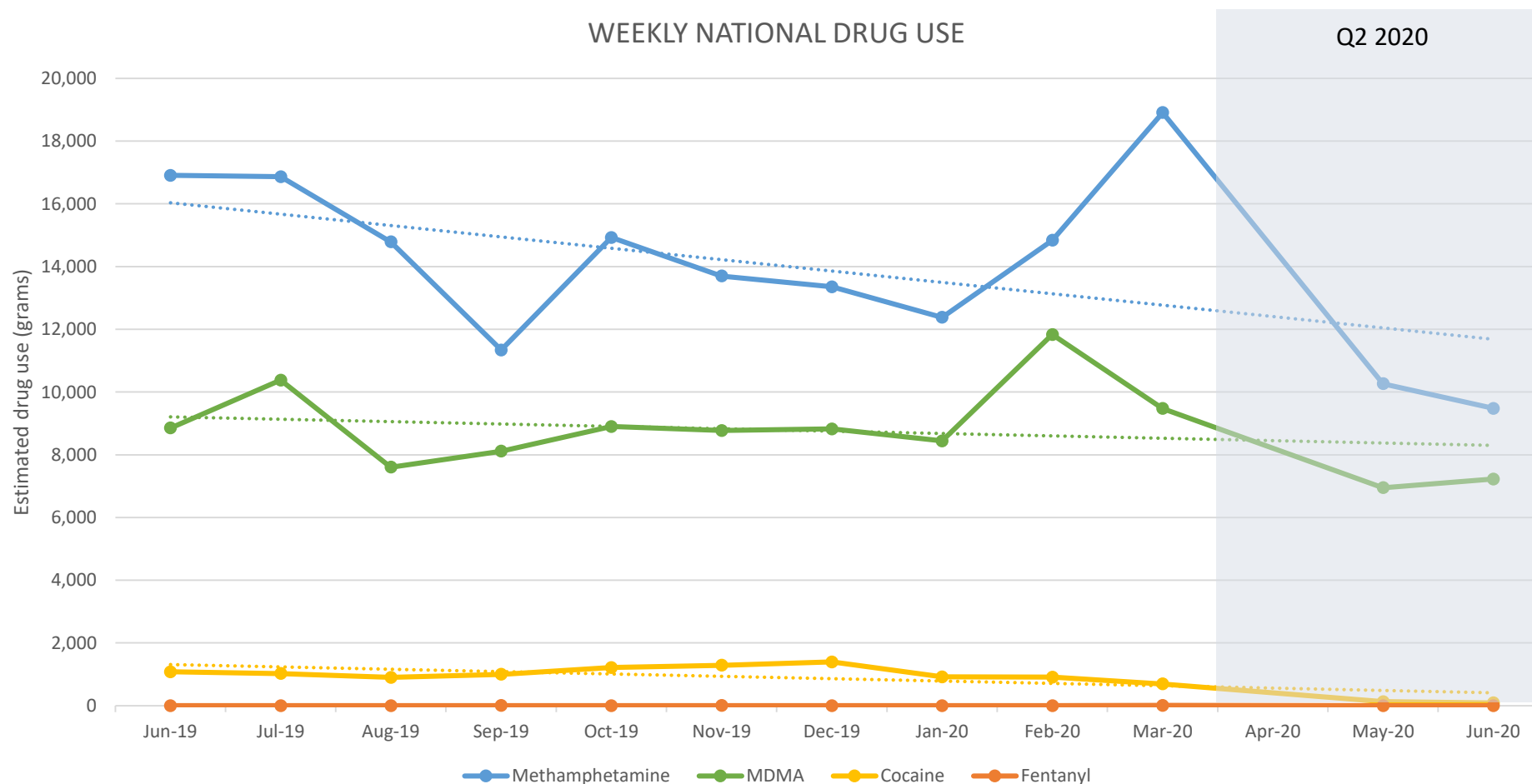
### NOTES

- The wastewater testing regime has expanded to 45 testing locations across New Zealand, covering up to 75 percent of the total population. Wastewater testing occurs during one week per month, however the frequency of testing varies between sites.
- Q2 2020 covers the reporting period April to June 2020 (inclusive).

### KEY UPDATES

- From Q2 2020, quarterly reporting will occur in alignment with the calendar year; **Q1:** January – March, **Q2:** April – June, **Q3:** July – September, **Q4:** October – December.
- The last quarterly report (Q1 2020) covered the period November 2019 to January 2020 (inclusive). Reporting of data from this period was due to nationwide testing commencing in November 2018. The realignment of reporting quarters has resulted in February and March being excluded from quarterly reporting in 2020. February and March will continue to be depicted in year-to-date national consumption trends, as shown in the graph below.
- Of note, this quarter of reporting captures the immediate effects of national restrictions implemented in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The significant changes in the post-COVID-19 environment, as well as the shift in quarterly reporting periods, mean that Q2 2020 is not easily comparable to previously reported quarters. April results have been excluded from Q2 2020 data as only three of the 45 sites were able to provide samples during this time due to risks associated with COVID-19.

### WEEKLY NATIONAL DRUG USE



The above graph shows national weekly consumption of selected commodities over the past 13 months. This timeframe allows for the current month to be compared with the same month in the previous year, as well as a full 12 months of data.

### KEY FINDINGS: Q2 2020

#### METHAMPHETAMINE

- Average national weekly consumption of methamphetamine was 9.9 kgs throughout Q2 2020.
- Per capita, methamphetamine use was most prevalent in Bay of Plenty, Eastern and Northland districts in Q2 2020.

#### MDMA

- Average national weekly consumption of MDMA was 7.1 kgs throughout Q2 2020.
- Per capita, MDMA use was most prevalent in Southern, Canterbury and Wellington districts in Q2 2020.

#### COCAINE

- Average national weekly consumption of cocaine was 0.1 kgs throughout Q2 2020.
- Per capita, cocaine use was most prevalent in Tamaki Makaurau, Canterbury and Wellington districts in Q2 2020.

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

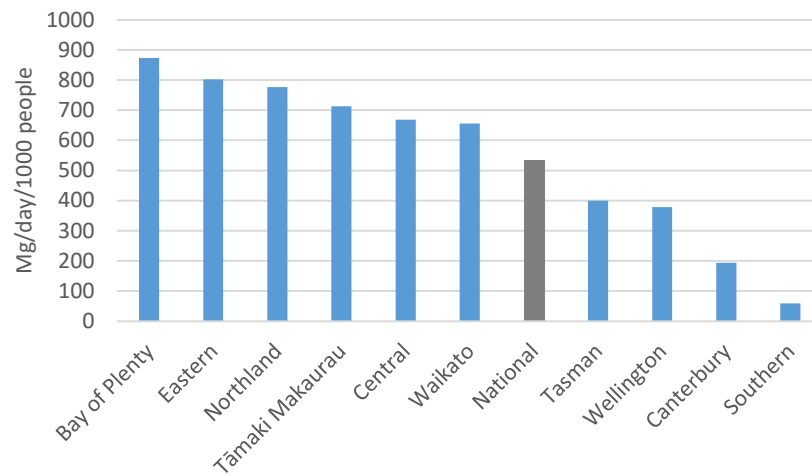
## Police District Overview

### NOTES

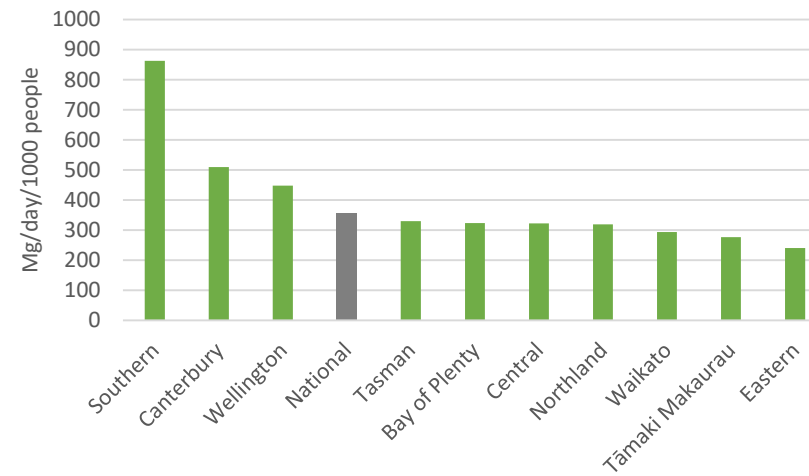
- Per capita graphs are not shown on a comparative scale, due to the variance in consumption levels across different drug types. Drug use is shown as milligrams consumed per day, per 1,000 people. April has been excluded from the below Q2 2020 graphs as only three sites were able to sample during this month.
- Average weekly drug use graphs show the average consumption in grams for each commodity tested for, by district, throughout Q2 2020. The graphs for Tāmaki Makaurau, Wellington and Canterbury have been enlarged to reflect the higher levels of consumption in metropolitan areas.

PER CAPITA DRUG USE BY DISTRICT Q2 2020

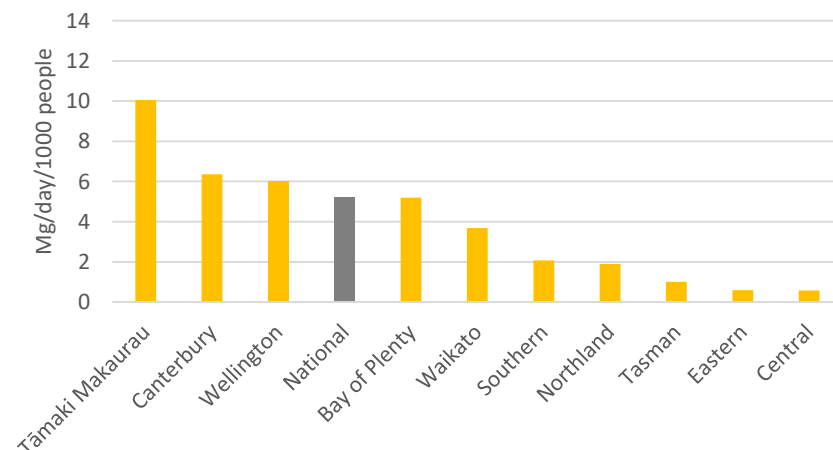
METHAMPHETAMINE: PREVALENCE PER CAPITA



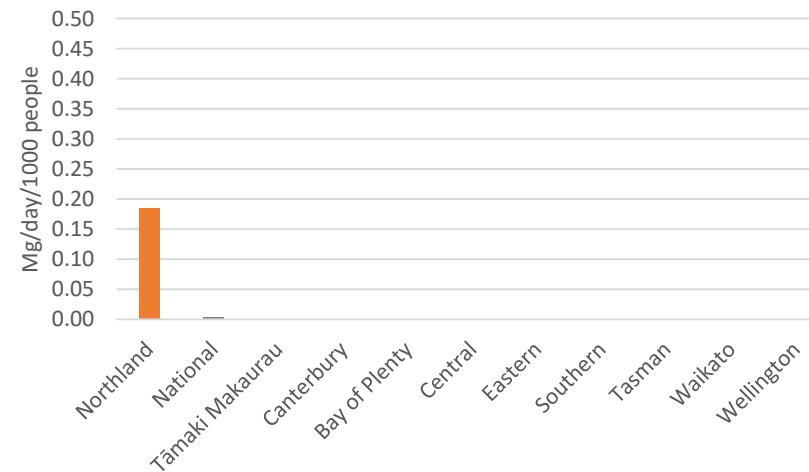
MDMA: PREVALENCE PER CAPITA



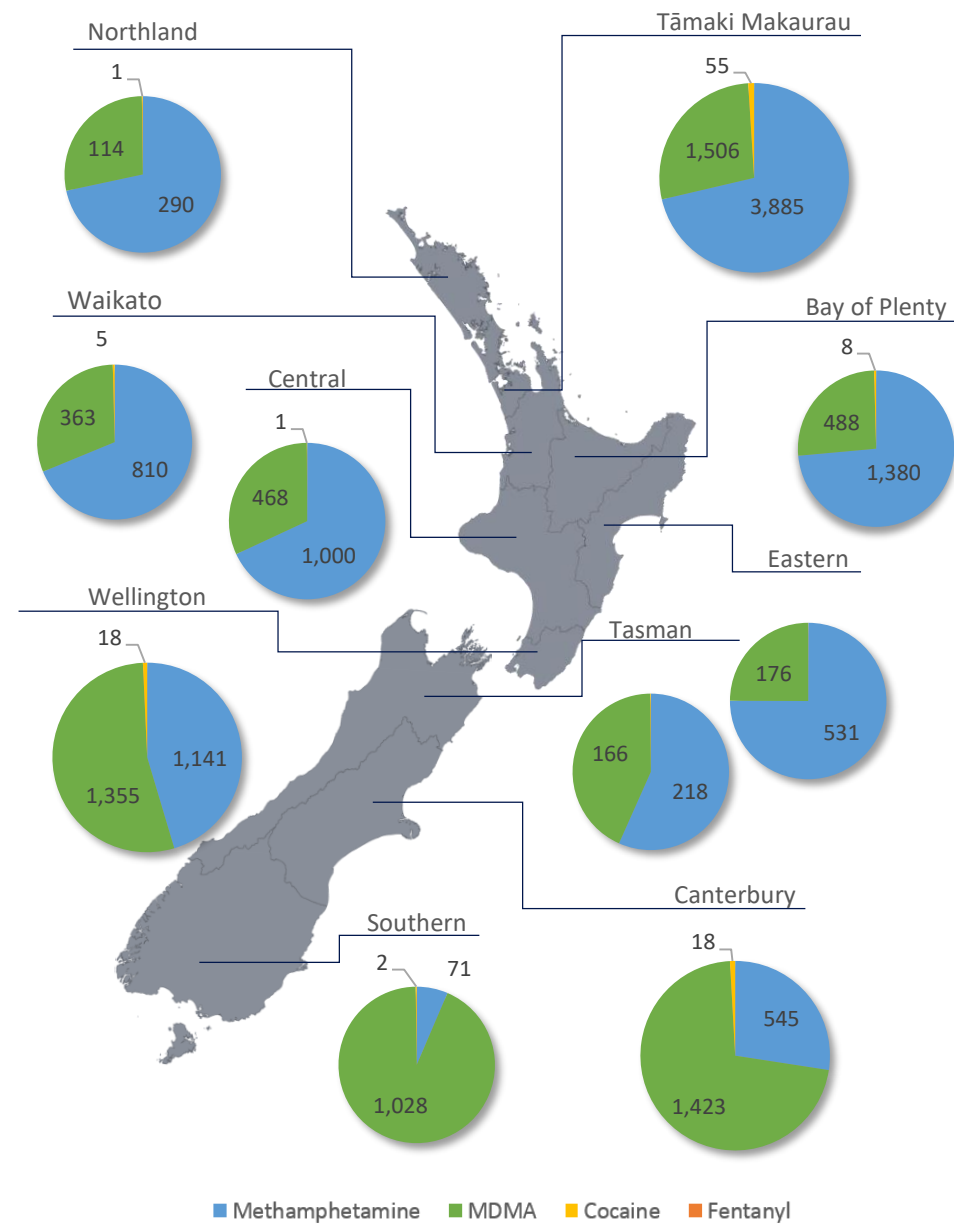
COCAINE: PREVALENCE PER CAPITA



FENTANYL: PREVALENCE PER CAPITA



AVERAGE WEEKLY DRUG USE BY DISTRICT Q2 2020 (GRAMS)



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

## Sample Site Overview

### NOTES

- The below graphs illustrate the proportion of drug use detected at each testing site during Q2 2020, which aims to highlight the difference in patterns of drug use throughout New Zealand.
- Q2 2020 covers the reporting period April to June 2020 (inclusive). April data has been included for the three sites that were sampled in April: Whangārei, Auckland North and Christchurch.
- No samples were collected at the Taupō site throughout Q2 2020.

