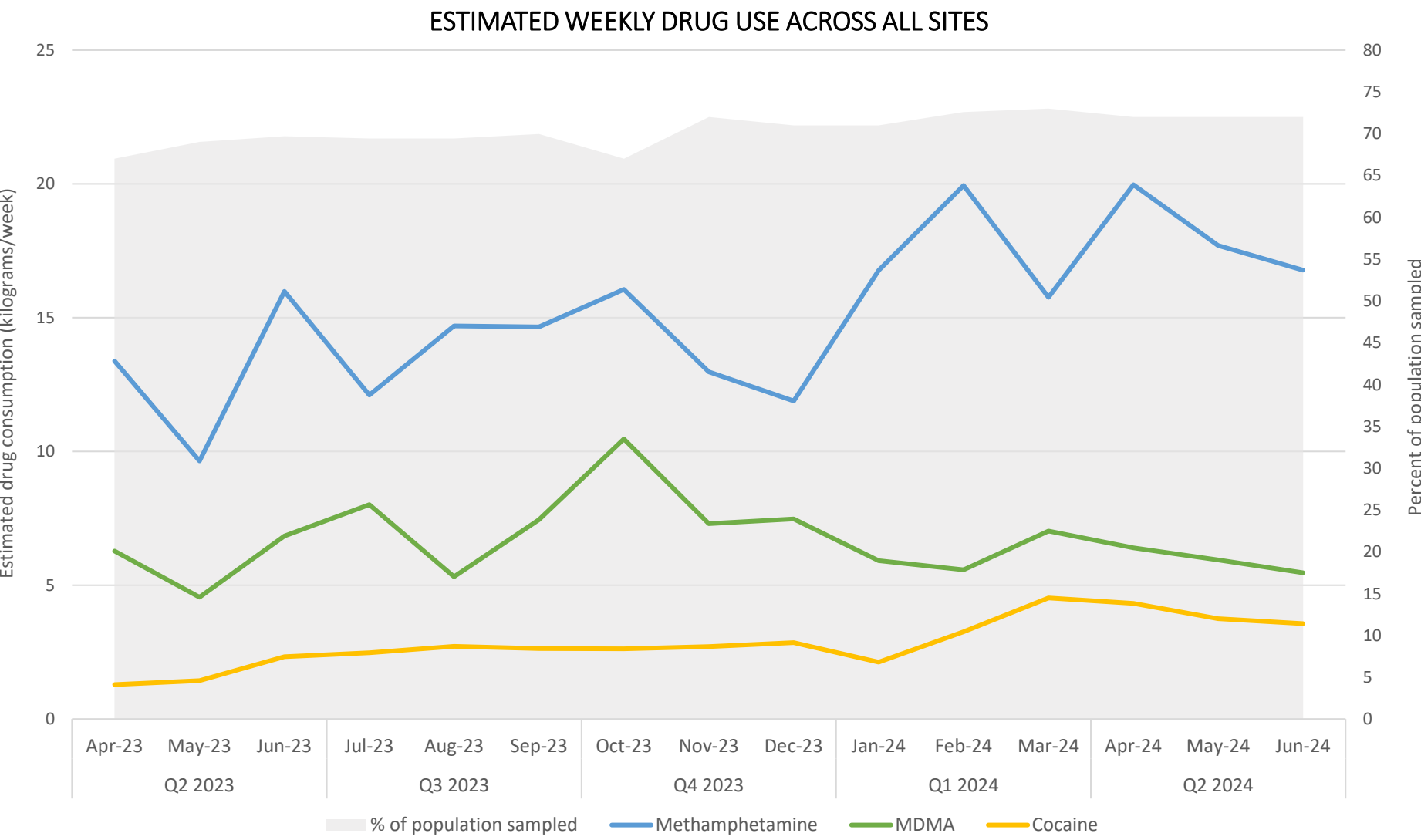


- Wastewater testing occurs during one week each month, however the frequency of testing varies between sites. Nationwide testing started in November 2018, with current testing sites covering up to 75 percent of the total New Zealand population. While the nationwide programme tests for indicators of consumption of methamphetamine, MDMA, cocaine, heroin, and fentanyl, the three commodities routinely detected in sufficient quantities to accurately report on are methamphetamine, MDMA and cocaine.
- Q2 2024 covers the three month period between April and June 2024 (inclusive).
- All data is representative of the sites tested only. It is not possible to extrapolate this data to nearby communities that are not tested.
- Drug use is calculated from the concentration of each drug biomarker detected in the wastewater. This is reflective of the amount of pure drug being consumed and does not include fillers, binders or adulterants.
- The social harm cost estimates are derived from the New Zealand Illicit Drug Harm Index 2023 (DHI 2023). The DHI 2023 provides a conservative measure of the harms associated with the use of illicit drugs in New Zealand and considers both personal and community harms.



KEY FINDINGS Q2 2024

METHAMPHETAMINE

- Methamphetamine use across sample sites increased in Q2 2024, averaging an estimated 18.1 kilograms per week. This was above the average quantity consumed over the previous four quarters (25% or 3.7 kilograms above).
- All districts, except for Wellington, recorded above average methamphetamine use when compared with their respective average consumption rates over the previous four quarters.
- Methamphetamine use across sample sites in Q2 2024 equates to an estimated weekly social harm cost of \$19 million.

MDMA

- MDMA use across sample sites decreased in Q2 2024, averaging an estimated 5.9 kilograms per week. This was below the average quantity consumed over the previous four quarters (13% or 0.9 kilograms below).
- Canterbury was the only district to record above average MDMA use when compared with its average consumption rate over the previous four quarters.
- MDMA use across sample sites in Q2 2024 equates to an estimated weekly social harm cost of \$1.2 million.

COCAINE

- Cocaine use across sample sites remained high in Q2 2024, averaging an estimated 3.9 kilograms per week. This remained above the average quantity consumed over the previous four quarters (50% or 1.3 kilograms above).
- All districts recorded above average cocaine use when compared with their respective average consumption rates over the previous four quarters.
- Cocaine use across sample sites in Q2 2024 equates to an estimated weekly social harm cost of \$1.5 million.

Programme changes

The Drugs in Wastewater Programme has been undergoing expansion since October 2023, slowly increasing the number of testing sites. To date these sites have had minimal impact on per capita consumption rates. However, in Q2 2024 some changes have impacted the district data. Namely in Northland where the number of sites tested increased from one to three, and in the Bay of Plenty where a key site stopped participating in the programme.



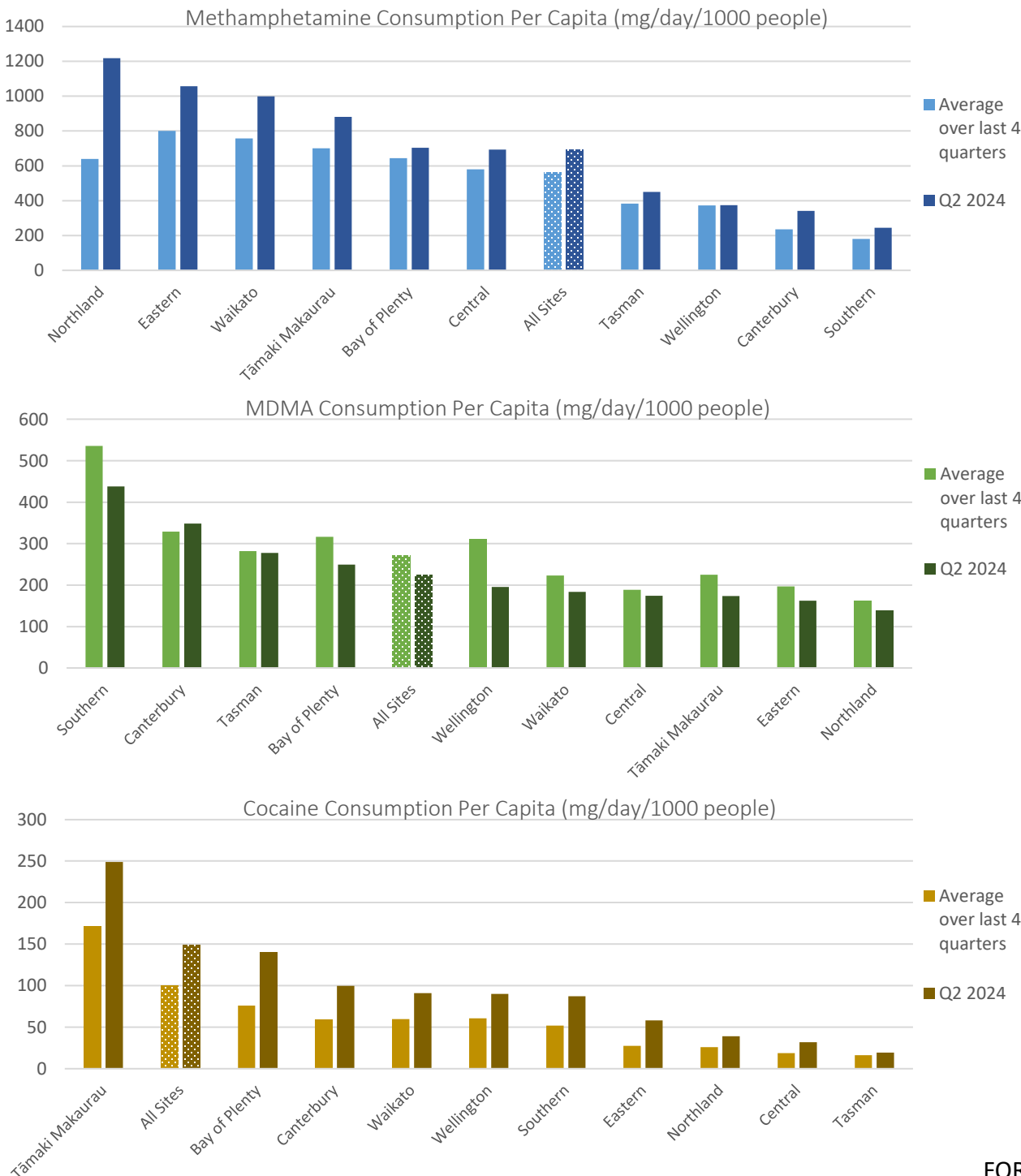
Wastewater Drug Testing in New Zealand: National Overview

Quarter Two: April – June 2024



- Per capita drug consumption is shown as milligrams per day, per 1,000 people. As a number of locations are tested every second month, the presence or absence of data from some sites within a district will affect the total load and per capita consumption rates reported each quarter. **District** relates to the sites tested within each district and should not be extrapolated to represent the entire district. **All sites** relates to the per capita consumption for all sites tested across New Zealand.
- The pie charts show the average estimated drug use (in grams) for each commodity per district per testing week during Q2 2024. As this data is not adjusted for population, larger metropolitan areas record higher quantities of drug use per week due to the larger number of people in the catchment zone.
- The bar charts compare each district's average per capita consumption rate over Q2 2024 with their respective average consumption rates over the previous four quarters.

PER CAPITA DRUG CONSUMPTION BY DISTRICT: Q2 2024



AVERAGE WEEKLY DRUG USE BY DISTRICT SITES Q2 2024 (GRAMS)

