

Monday, 21 May 2018

Almost 9-in-10 Australians take medication of some kind

New research shows medication is taken by over 17.8 million, or 88.7%, Australians aged 14+ in an average 12 month period.

Some 9.4 million women, or 92.6% of women, have taken medications in the last year compared to just under 8.4 million men, or 84.8% of men.

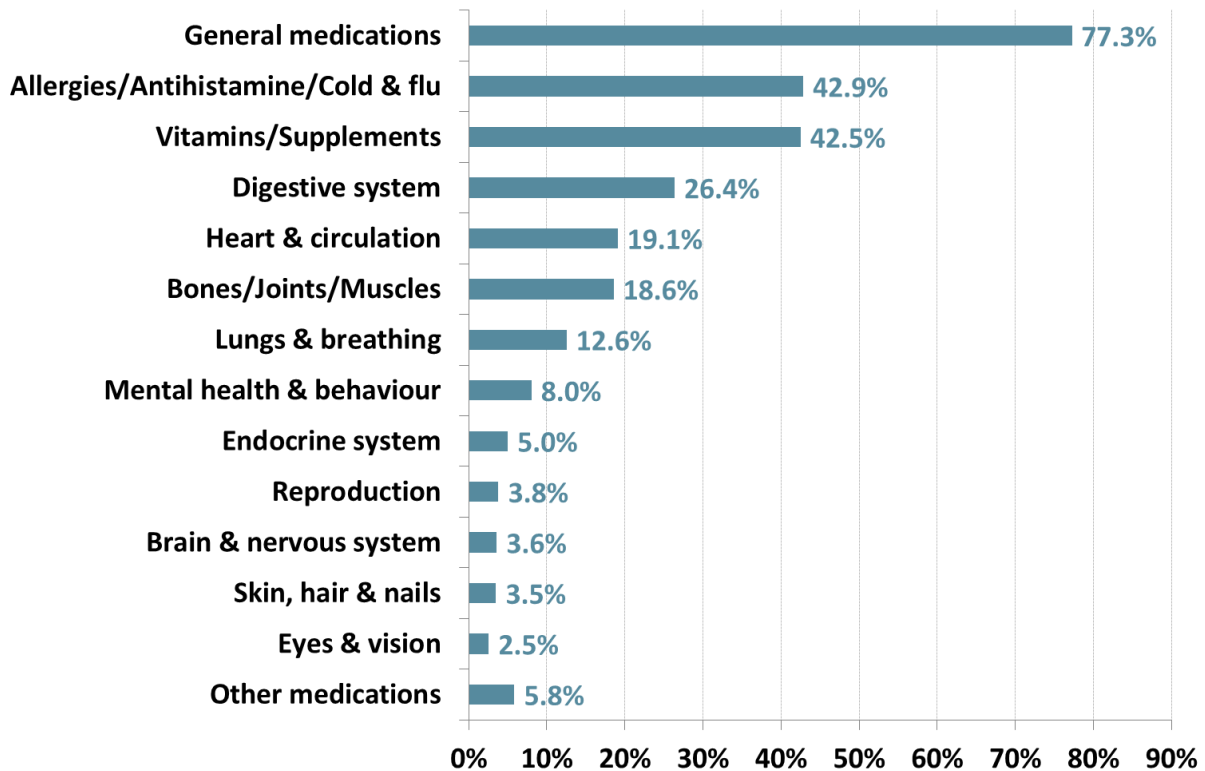
The most widely taken type of medications are General medications such as aspirin, Panadol, Voltaren, Nurofen and the like taken by 77.3% of Australians. Allergies/Antihistamine/Cold & flu medications taken by 42.9% of Australians include Sudafed, Benadryl, Claratyne, Telfast and others.

Vitamins/Supplements taken by 42.5% of Australians include Berocca, Blackmores, Swisse and Cenovis while Digestive system medications such as Gaviscon, Quick-Eze, Mylanta, Nexium and the like are taken by 26.4% of Australians.

Women are more likely to take almost all types of medications than men with the exception of Heart & circulation medication taken by 19.6% of men compared to 18.6% of women.

These are some of the highlights from the latest Roy Morgan health and wellbeing data conducted in the 12 months to December 2017.

Type of medications taken for illnesses or conditions



Source: Roy Morgan Single Source (Australia), January – December 2017, n=50,139.

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The propensity of women to take most forms of medication more than men is supported by the fact women are more likely to report experiencing an illness or condition over the last 12 months. Over 9.8 million women, or 96.2% of women, reported having an illness or condition in the last year compared to under 9.2 million men, or 92.6% of men.

Michele Levine, CEO, Roy Morgan, says 9-in-10 Australians take medication and Australian women are more committed to dealing with health and medical issues than their male counterparts:

“Nearly 90% of Australians took medication of one sort or another in the last 12 months equivalent to 17.8 million Australians. The most widely used type of medications are General medications such as Panadol and Nurofen and the like taken by over 15.5 million Aussies.

“Other types of medications used widely include Allergies/Antihistamines/Cold & flu medications and Vitamins/Supplements both taken by over two-in-five Australians in the last year. Our research shows medications are taken by around one million more women than men. Over 9.4 million women took medication in the last year compared to fewer than 8.4 million men.

“The Roy Morgan Single Source health and wellbeing data provides a detailed look into the illnesses and conditions Australians are suffering from and what types of medication they take to deal with these medical conditions.”

For comments or more information about Roy Morgan’s health and consumer products data, please contact:

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Related research findings

Find out more about [Australians who are prescribed medications](#), and people with a variety of health conditions including [Allergies, cold and flu](#), [Blood, Bones, joints and muscles](#), [Brain and nervous system](#), [Cancer](#), [Digestive system](#), [Ear, nose and throat](#), [Endocrine system](#), [Eyes and vision](#), [Heart and circulation](#), [Infections](#), [Kidney and urinary systems](#), [Lungs and breathing](#), [Mental illness](#), [Mouth and teeth](#), [Reproductive system](#), [Skin, hair and nails](#) and [Other illnesses](#).

Compiled with data from Roy Morgan’s Single Source survey (the largest of its kind in the world, with 50,000 respondents p.a), these ready-made profiles provide a broad understanding of the target

About Roy Morgan

Roy Morgan is the largest independent Australian research company, with offices in each state of Australia, as well as in the United States and the United Kingdom. A full service research organisation specialising in omnibus and syndicated data, Roy Morgan has over 75 years’ experience in collecting objective, independent information on consumers.

Margin of Error

The margin of error to be allowed for in any estimate depends mainly on the number of interviews on which it is based. Margin of error gives indications of the likely range within which estimates would be 95% likely to fall, expressed as the number of percentage points above or below the actual estimate. Allowance for design effects (such as stratification and weighting) should be made as appropriate.

Sample Size	Percentage Estimate			
	40%-60%	25% or 75%	10% or 90%	5% or 95%
50,000	±0.4	±0.4	±0.3	±0.2