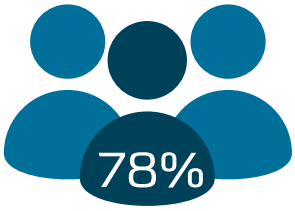
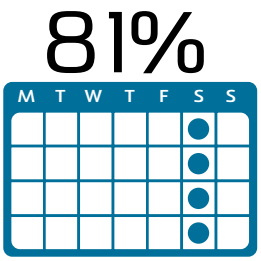
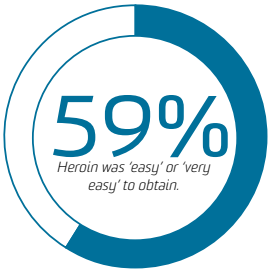
HEROIN



Past 6 month use of heroin was 78% in the 2020 sample (82% in 2019).



Of those who had recently consumed heroin, 4 in 5 used it weekly or more often.

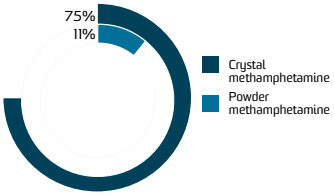


Of those who could comment 59% perceived heroin to be 'easy' or 'very easy' to obtain, down from 89% in 2019.

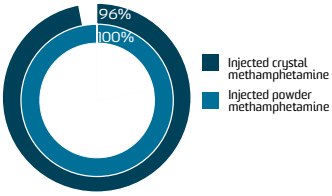
METHAMPHETAMINE



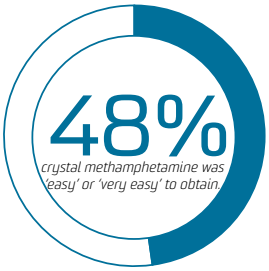
In the sample, 77% reported past 6 month use of any methamphetamine (75% in 2019).



Of the entire sample, 11% had recently consumed powder, and 75% crystal methamphetamine.

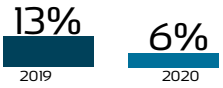


Injection was the main route of administration for crystal (96%) and powder (100%) among those who had consumed each form.

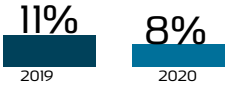


Of those who could comment 48% perceived crystal methamphetamine to be 'easy' or 'very easy' to obtain in 2020.

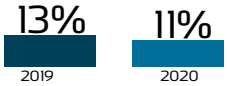
PHARMACEUTICAL MEDICINES



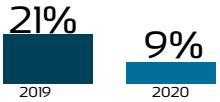
Past 6 month use of non-prescribed morphine was stable at 13% in the 2019 IDRS sample and 6% in 2020.



Past 6 month use of non-prescribed fentanyl was stable at 11% in the 2019 IDRS sample to 8% in 2020.

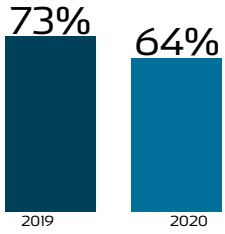


Past 6 month use of non-prescribed pregabalin was stable at 13% in the 2019 IDRS sample and 11% in 2020.

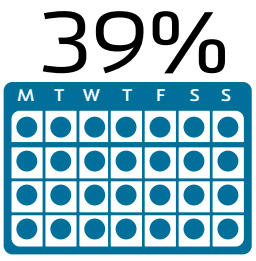


Past 6 month use of non-prescribed oxycodone decreased from 21% in the 2019 IDRS sample to 9% in 2020.

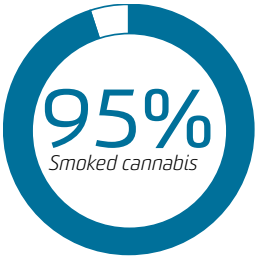
CANNABIS



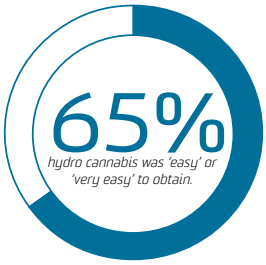
Past 6 month use of any cannabis was stable at 73% in the 2019 IDRS sample and 64% in 2020.



Of those who had consumed cannabis recently, 2 in 5 reported daily or more frequent use.



Of people who had consumed cannabis in the last 6 months, 95% had smoked it.



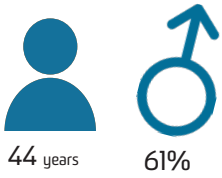
Of those who could comment 65% perceived hydro to be 'easy' or 'very easy' to obtain.

IDRS Illicit Drug Reporting System

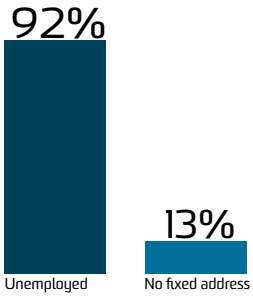
2020 SAMPLE CHARACTERISTICS



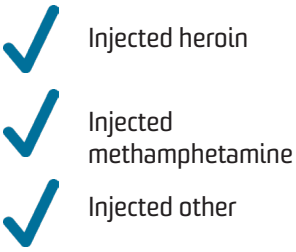
In 2020, 155 people from Sydney, NSW participated in IDRS interviews.



The mean age in 2020 was 44, and 61% identified as male.

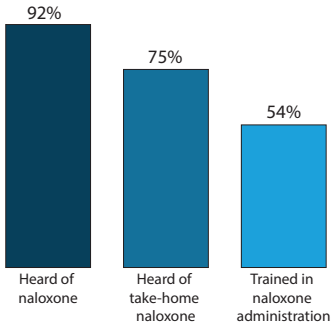


In the 2020 sample, 92% were unemployed and 13% had no fixed address.

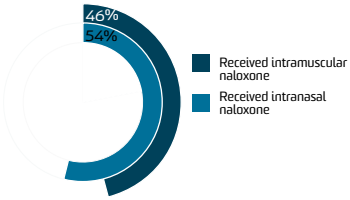


Participants were recruited on the basis that they had injected drugs at least monthly in the previous 6 months.

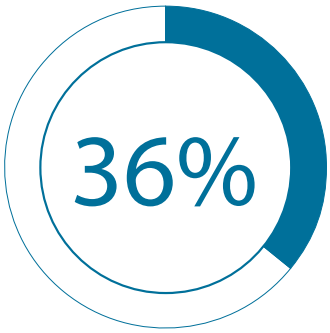
NALOXONE



IDRS participants' knowledge of the take home naloxone program.



Of those who reported ever accessing naloxone, 46% received intramuscular naloxone and 54% intranasal naloxone.



Of those who reported having heard of naloxone, 36% had used naloxone to resuscitate someone who had overdosed.



In the sample, 4% said they had been resuscitated with naloxone by a peer.

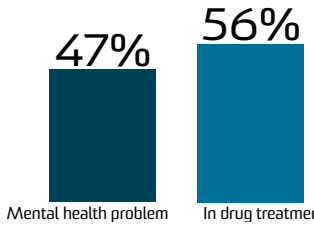
OTHER HARMS AND HELP-SEEKING



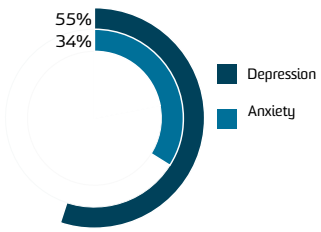
In the 2020 sample, 12% had a non-fatal opioid overdose in the last year. Heroin was the most commonly cited opioid related to non-fatal overdose.



In the 2020 sample, 11% had experienced a non-fatal stimulant overdose in the previous 12 months.

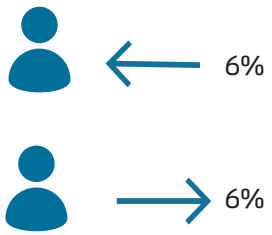


In the sample, 47% self reported a mental health problem in the six months prior to interview, and 56% were in drug treatment at the time of interview.

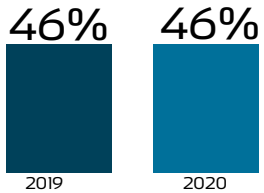


Of those who self-reported a mental health problem, 55% reported being diagnosed with depression and 34% with anxiety.

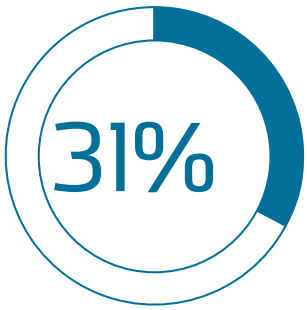
INJECTING RELATED RISKS AND HARMS



In 2020, 6% of the sample reported receptive needle sharing, and 6% reported distributive needle sharing.



The number of people who re-used their own needles was stable from 2019 (46%) to 2020 (46%).



In 2020, one-third (31%) of the sample reported having an injection-related health issue in the month preceding interview.