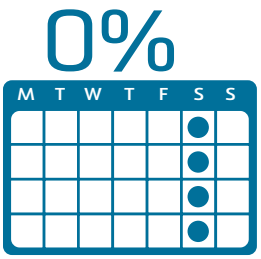
HEROIN

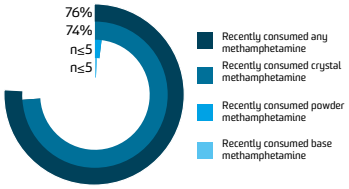


Past 6 month use of heroin was at n≤5 in the 2021 IDRS sample, stable from n≤5 2020.

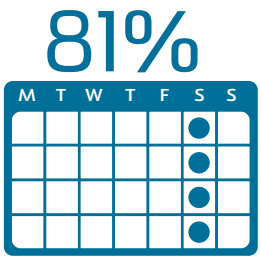


Of those who had recently consumed heroin, 0% used it weekly or more often, stable from 0% in 2020.

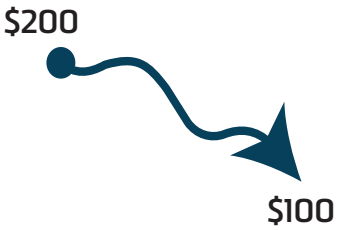
METHAMPHETAMINE



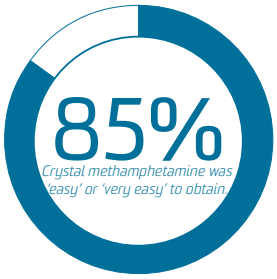
Past 6 month use of any (76%), crystal (74%), powder (n≤5) and base (n≤5) methamphetamine remained stable.



Of those who had recently used any form of methamphetamine, 81% used it at least weekly, stable from 74% in 2020.



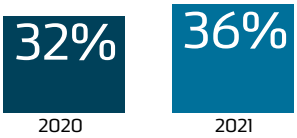
The median reported price for a point of crystal methamphetamine was $100 in 2021, a decrease from $200 in 2020.



Of those who could comment, 85% perceived crystal methamphetamine to be 'easy' or 'very easy' to obtain in 2021, an increase from n≤5 in 2020.

OTHER DRUGS

Non-prescribed morphine



Past 6 month use of non-prescribed morphine was stable at 32% in the 2020 sample and 36% in 2021.

Non-prescribed fentanyl



Past 6 month use of non-prescribed fentanyl was stable at n≤5 in the 2020 sample to n≤5 in 2021.

Non-prescribed pregabalin



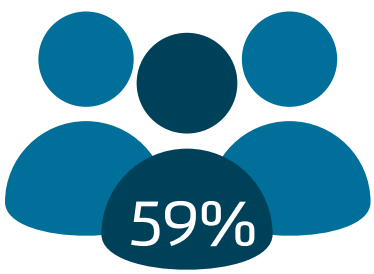
Past 6 month use of non-prescribed pregabalin was stable at 8% in the 2020 sample and 6% in 2021.

GHB/GBL/1,4-BD

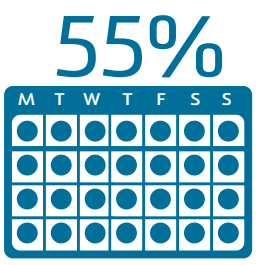


Past 6 month use of GHB/GBL/1,4-BD was low (0% in 2020 and n≤5 in 2021).

CANNABIS



Past 6 month use of any cannabis was stable at 60% in the 2020 sample and 59% in 2021.



Of those who had consumed cannabis recently, over half reported daily use (55%).



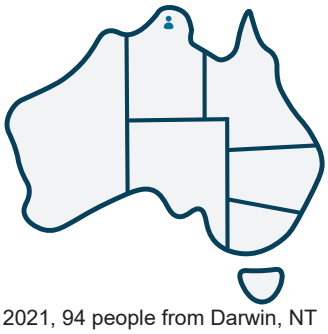
Of people who had consumed cannabis in the last 6 months, all of the participants had smoked it.



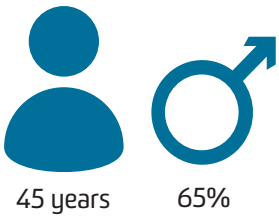
Of those who could comment 94% perceived hydro to be 'easy' or 'very easy' to obtain.

IDRS Illicit Drug Reporting System

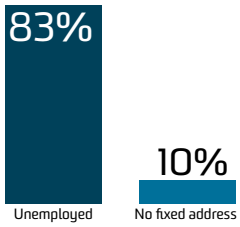
2021 SAMPLE CHARACTERISTICS



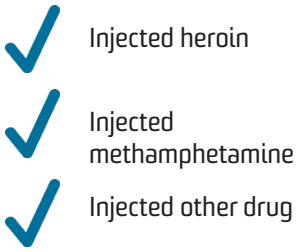
In 2021, 94 people from Darwin, NT participated in IDRS interviews.



The mean age in 2021 was 45, and 65% identified as male.

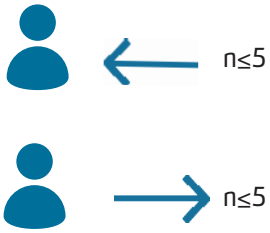


In the 2021 sample, 83% were unemployed and 10% had no fixed address.



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

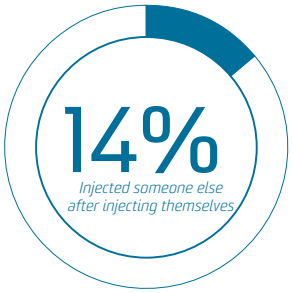
INJECTING RELATED RISKS AND HARMS



In 2021, n≤5 of the IDRS sample reported receptive needle sharing, and n≤5 reported distributive needle sharing.



The number of people who re-used their own needles remained stable from 22% in 2020 to 14% 2021.

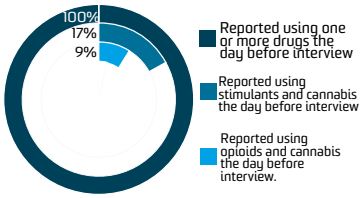


In the NT sample, 14% of participants reported injecting someone else after injecting themselves.

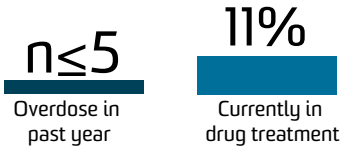


In 2021, n≤5 of the NT sample reported having an injection-related health issue in the month preceding interview.

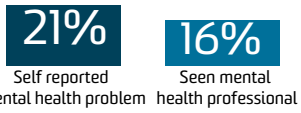
OTHER HARMS AND HELP-SEEKING



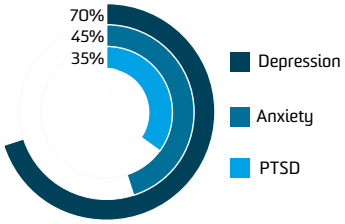
IDRS participants' use of drugs the day before interview participation, 2021.



In the 2021 sample, n≤5 had experienced a non-fatal overdose in the previous 12 months and 11% were currently in drug treatment.

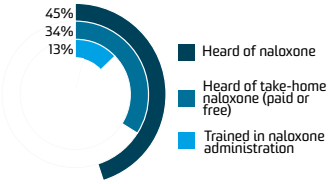


In the sample, 21% self reported a mental health problem in the six months prior to interview, and 16% had seen a mental health professional.

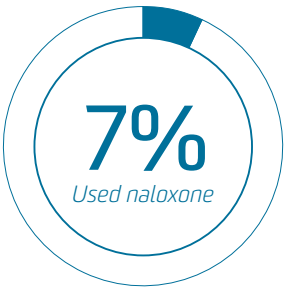


Of those who commented, the three most common mental health issues reported were depression (70%), anxiety (45%) and PTSD (35%).

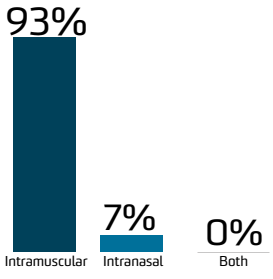
NALOXONE AND HARM REDUCTION



IDRS participants' knowledge of, and participation in, the take-home naloxone program remained stable in 2021.



Of those who reported having heard of naloxone, 7% had used naloxone to resuscitate someone who had overdosed.



Of those who reported ever accessing naloxone, 93% received intramuscular naloxone, 7% intranasal naloxone and 0% both.



In 2021, no participants reported that they or someone else had tested the content and/or purity of their illicit drugs in Australia in the past year.