2014 National Drug Trends Conference

UNSW AUSTRALIA

'Australia: Major Drug Trends and Issues'

Australian National Maritime Museum, Sydney
Monday 20th October 2014 , 8.30am to 5pm

Medicine | National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre | Program

8.00 - 8.45am	Registration
8.45 - 8.50am	Welcome to Country
8.50 - 9.00am	Welcome - **Director NDARC, Professor Michael Farrell,** National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, UNSW
Session One:	**Drug Trends - key findings**
Chair:	**Professor Michael Farrell, National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre**
9.00 - 9.15am	What is Drug Trends? - **A/Prof. Lucy Burns,** National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, UNSW
9.15 - 9.35am	IDRS National overview: key findings - **Ms Jennifer Stafford,** National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, UNSW
9.35 - 9.55am	EDRS National overview: key findings - **Ms Natasha Sindicich**, National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, UNSW
9.55- 10.20am	Poster session - NSW, ACT, VIC, TAS and NIDIP
10.20- 10.45am	Morning Tea
Session Two:	**International**
Chair:	**Professor Paul Dietze, Burnet Institute**
10.45 - 11.35am	Trends in the Asia Pacific/Oceania region - **Mr Jeremy Douglas,** United Nations
11.35 - 12.00pm	Trends in the importation of border controlled drugs - **Det. Sgt Keith Randall,** AFP Crime Operations
12.00 - 12.25pm	Poster session - SA, WA, NT, QLD and DNeT,
12.25 - 1.15pm	Lunch
Session Three:	**Current issues 1**
Chair:	**A/Professor Raimondo Bruno, University of Tasmania**
1.15- 1.40pm	Hepatitis C and treatment - **Ms Kerryn Butler,** National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, UNSW
1.40 - 2.05pm	New science of chronic pain: opioids - **Dr Chris Hayes,** John Hunter Hospital, Newcastle
2.05 - 2.30pm	Psychostimulant use - **A/Prof. Nadine Ezard,** St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney
2.30 - 2.55pm	Drug trends in NSW - **Ms Claire Rickards & Sgt Melissa Nelmes**, NSW Police Drug Squad
2.55 - 3.20pm	Afternoon Tea
Session Four:	**Current issues 2**
Chair:	**A/Professor Rosa Alati, Queensland Alcohol and Drug Research and Education Centre**
3.20 - 3.45pm	Performance and image enhancing drugs - **Dr Karen Chronister,** Kirby Institute, UNSW
3.45 - 4.10pm	The Evolving Victorian Illicit Drug Market - 1988 to 2013 - **Ms Joanne Gerstner-Stevens,** Victoria Police
4.10 - 4.35pm	Accessing drugs online: Some user experiences and policy implications - **Prof. Simon Lenton**, National Drug Research Institute, Curtin University
4.35 - 5.00pm	Experiences of drug use in prisons - **Mr James Fetherston,** National Drug Research Institute, Curtin University
5.00pm	**Closing comments - A/Professor Lucy Burns**

NIDIP DNeT IDRS EDRS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgments 1
IDRS results 2
EDRS results 27
Poster sessions 59
Speaker notes 60
IDRS bulletin 73
EDRS bulletin 78
DNeT bulletin 85
Contacts 91

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The IDRS and EDRS team would like to thank the participants in the projects across Australia who volunteered their time to complete the 2014 (and previous years) IDRS and EDRS surveys who without their contribution, the projects could not take place.

The team would also like to acknowledge:

- Amanda Roxburgh, for her tireless effort with accessing and analyses of indicator data
- The Advisory committee members for their expert advice and guidance
- Marion Downey and the media communications team at NDARC

Funding
This project was funded by the Australian Government under the Substance Misuse Prevention and Service Improvement Grant.

Fieldwork
The NDARC project team would also like to thank the following people and participating research partners who contributed information presented in this handout:

National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, University of New South Wales (NSW)
A/Prof Lucy Burns, Ms Natasha Sindicich, Ms Jennifer Stafford, Mr David Mckell, Mr Gavin Entwistle, Ms Kerryn Butler, Ms Rachel Sutherland and Ms Elizabeth Whittaker (National, NSW, ACT, SA and EDRS NT).

The Macfarlane Burnet Institute for Medical Research and Public Health (VIC)
Ms Shelley Cogger, Ms Arthur Truong, & Prof Paul Dietze

School of Psychology, University of Tasmania (TAS)
Ms Barbara deGraaff, Dr Allison Matthews, Ms Amy Peacock and A/Prof Raimondo Bruno

The National Drug Research Institute (WA)
Mr James Fetherston, Ms Marina Nelson & Prof Simon Lenton

Queensland Alcohol and Drug Research and Education Centre, The University of Queensland (QLD)
Dr Fairlie McIlwraith, Ms Sophie Hickey & A/Prof Rosa Alati

Department of Health and Families, Northern Territory Government (NT)
Mr Chris Moon and Ms Susan Fong

Suggested citation:

IDRS findings: Stafford, J. & Burns, L. (2014) Australian Drug Trends 2014: Findings from the Illicit Drug Reporting System (IDRS). Australian Drug Trends Conference, Sydney. National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, University of New South Wales.

EDRS findings: Sindicich, N. & Burns, L. (2014) Australian Drug Trends 2014: Findings from the Ecstasy and Related Drugs Reporting System (EDRS). Australian Drug Trends Conference, Sydney. National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, University of New South Wales.

Please note that as with all statistical reports there is the potential for minor revisions to data in this report over its life. Please refer to the online version at www.ndarc.med.unsw.edu.au.

AUSTRALIAN DRUG TRENDS 2014
FINDINGS FROM THE
ILLICIT DRUGS REPORTING SYSTEM (EDRS)



Key findings- Drug Trend Conference Handout

The Illicit Drug Reporting System (IDRS) is a national illicit drug monitoring system intended to serve as a strategic early warning system, identifying emerging trends of local and national concern in illicit drug markets. The IDRS consists of three components: interviews with people who inject drugs regularly (PWID); interviews with key experts (KEs), who are professionals who have knowledge of drug trends and/or regular contact with users through their work; and analysis and examination of indicator data sources related to illicit drugs.

The IDRS monitors the price, purity, availability and patterns of use of heroin, methamphetamine, cocaine and cannabis. The IDRS is designed to be sensitive to trends, providing data in a timely manner, rather than describing issues in detail. It is important to note that the information from the people who inject drugs (PWID) survey is not representative of illicit drug use in the general population and nor is the information representative of all illicit drug users, but is indicative of emerging trends that warrant further investigation. Drug trends in this publication are cited by jurisdiction, although they primarily represent trends in the capital city of each jurisdiction, in which new drug trends are likely to emerge.

This handout (provided as part of the 2014 National Drug Trends Conference) presents key findings for the 2014 IDRS (PWID survey component) and may be subject to minor change. Final figures will appear in the 2014 national and jurisdictional reports, to be released next year (April 2015). Previous years' data are available in reports published elsewhere, and are accessible on the NDARC website www.ndarc.med.unsw.edu.au

Definitions:
Use - includes smoking, snorting, swallowing and injecting as routes of administration
Recent use - used in the last 6 months
Recent injection – injected in the last 6 months
Injecting drug users (PWID) - those who have injected any drug 6 or more times in the last 6 months
↑ **Significant increase** from previous year (2013) compared with current year (2014)
↓ **Significant decrease** from previous year (2013) compared with current year (2014)

Guide to median days of use
Throughout this document, median days of drug use are reported. As an indication:

180 days = daily use	90 days = use every 2nd day	24 days = weekly use
48 days = twice weekly use	12 days = fortnightly use	6 days = monthly use

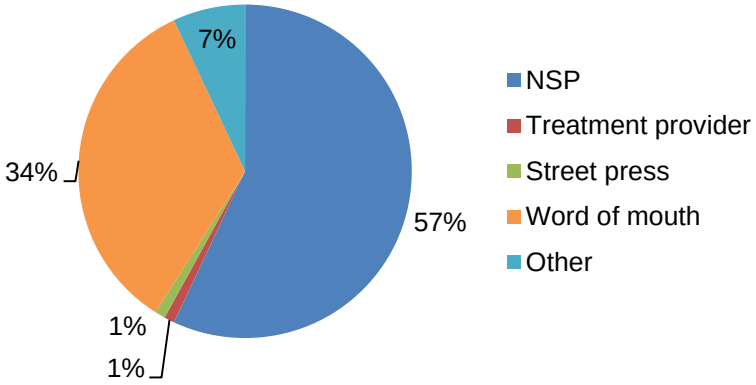
Note: due to rounding of percentages, some columns may not add up to 100%.

Funded by the Australian Government under the Substance Misuse Prevention and Service Improvement Grants Fund

KEY FINDINGS FROM THE 2014 IDRS

PARTICIPANT RECRUITMENT

- 36% of participants nationally reported to have completed the IDRS survey in a previous year.
- Participants were primarily recruited through Needle and Syringe programs and word of mouth (snowballing).



DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

Table 1. Demographic characteristics of the sample, 2014

	National		NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
	N=887	N=898	n=150	n=100	n=150	n=101	n=106	n=98	n=93	n=100
	2013	**2014**								
Mean age (years)	40	**41**	40	41	40	38	42	43	44	40
% Male	64	**69**	75	75	75	65	59	60	71	65
% English speaking background	96	**96**	94	97	89	100	96	98	96	98
% Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	17	**17**	37	13	13	10	9	6	22	15
% Single	53	**56**	55	58	57	58	56	45	57	57
% Heterosexual	89	**90**	91	92	89	96	92	85	87	88
Mean grade at school completed	10	**10**	9	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
% Completed trade/tech qualification	40	**46**	49	49	43	49	46	48	36	44
% Completed university/college	9	**9**	7	14	3	11	6	15	13	6
% Unemployed	84	**83**	93	82	89	75	80	77	77	82
Mean income per week ($)	(N=871) $392	**(N=882) $416**	(n=148) $375	(n=99) $486	(n=146) $384	(n=99) $412	(n=105) $424	(n=95) $454	(n=92) $442	(n=98) $386
% Prison history	56	**55**	79	50	64	41	51	51	44	51
% Currently in drug treatment[#]	47	**47**	51	56	66	45	27	50	17	53

Source: IDRS PWID interviews
[#] Includes all types of pharmacotherapy treatment, drug counselling, detoxification, therapeutic community and narcotics anonymous
Please note: Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander proportion of sample is not indicative of numbers of Indigenous persons who regularly inject drugs.

DRUG USE PATTERNS

Table 2. Drug use patterns, 2014

	National		NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
	N=887	N=898	n=150	n=100	n=150	n=101	n=106	n=98	n=93	n=100
	2013	**2014**								
Mean age first injected	20	**20**	19	19	19	20	21	20	22	19
% Drug of choice										
Heroin	53	**50**	66	56	65	15	37	65	28	56
Methamphetamine^	23	**24**	16	33	23	23	50	14	12	24
Speed	*10*	***8***	*3*	*8*	*6*	*14*	*16*	*0*	*8*	*9*
Base	*2*	***2***	*0*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*13*	*0*	*0*	*5*
Ice	*11*	***14***	*13*	*25*	*17*	*9*	*21*	*14*	*4*	*10*
Morphine	8	**10**	2	1	1	24	8	1	48	4
Oxycodone	3	**1**	1	0	0	3	0	2	2	3
Methadone	1	**4**	3	1	1	24	1	1	0	0
Buprenorphine#	1	**1**	1	0	1	5	0	2	0	2
Cocaine	2	**1**	4	0	2	0	0	0	4	1
Cannabis	5	**5**	4	5	5	3	5	5	1	8
Other drugs	4	**4**	3	4	2	3	0	10	4	1
% Drug injected most often last month										
Heroin	40	**41**	60	52	63	0	33	55	1	45
Methamphetamine^	25	**30**	28	38	29	22	54	23	14	29
Speed	*8*	***6***	*3*	*4*	*3*	*14*	*15*	*3*	*5*	*7*
Base	*2*	***1***	*0*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*11*	*0*	*0*	*0*
Ice	*15*	***22↑***	*25*	*34*	*26*	*8*	*28*	*19*	*9*	*22*
Morphine	17	**16**	5	2	1	40	9	5	79	11
Oxycodone	5	**2**	2	0	1	4	0	2	1	3
Methadone	4	**4**	2	1	1	24	3	2	1	3
Buprenorphine#	4	**4**	1	3	3	7	1	10	1	5
Cocaine	1	**<1**	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Other drugs	4	**3**	1	4	1	4	0	3	3	4
% Injection frequency last month										
Not in last month	2	**2**	0	3	3	1	1	0	0	4
Weekly or less	19	**18**	11	18	25	17	14	16	17	21
More than weekly (but less than daily)	38	**37**	29	41	35	47	54	35	16	38
Once daily	17	**19**	11	23	12	20	17	21	34	17
2-3 times daily	20	**20**	37	12	17	16	11	18	31	13
> 3 times a day	5	**6**	11	3	7	0	3	9	1	7

Source: IDRS PWID interviews
^ Includes speed powder, base, ice/crystal and liquid methamphetamine.
# Includes buprenorphine-naloxone (Suboxone)

HEROIN

Patterns of Heroin Use

Table 3. Proportion of PWID who reported use of heroin in the preceding six months, 2003-2014

%	National	NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
2003	65	97	88	90	26	55	63	16	64
2004	69	95	91	86	19	60	69	34	79
2005	66	88	86	89	19	61	69	24	64
2006	56	81	71	76	9	60	53	12	63
2007	59	88	72	85	5	67	57	7	65
2008	60	83	86	85	5	51	59	14	74
2009	64	94	78	79	12	72	71	13	75
2010	64	92	78	85	8	64	69	5	81
2011	62	87	79	81	19	57	79	9	65
2012	60	89	74	84	9	52	80	11	65
2013	60	83	75	83	10	41	75	17	72
2014	**60**	**85**	**75**	**83**	**13**	**43**	**79**	**7**	**66**

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

Table 4. Median days of heroin use in the preceding six months by those who had used heroin, 2003-2014[#]

	National	NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
2003	72	170	93	76	4.5	72	20	5	49
2004	72	120	72	90	4	48	48	5	26
2005	70	96	60	81	6	28	60	4	52
2006	40	72	24	56	6^	19	20	13	52
2007	72	96	48	90	4^	48	72	30^	28
2008	49	72	60	81	2^	48	48	6	48
2009	72	96	48	51	6	30	96	17	72
2010	72	96	60	74	3^	24	55	4^	90
2011	72	90	66	63	4	72	68	21^	66
2012	72	96	72	72	6^	48	90	4.5	72
2013	60	90	50	72	3	72	54	3	30
2014	**72**	**120**	**60**	**48**	**3**	**108**	**72**	**11^**	**48**

Source: IDRS PWID interviews
[#] Among those who had used. Maximum number of days, i.e. daily use = 180. See page 1 for guide.
^ Small numbers reported; interpret with caution (n<10)

Forms used

Table 5. Reports of heroin forms used in the last six months of those who had used heroin, 2014

	National		NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
	2013	**2014**								
% Used last 6 months (n)	(N=529)	**(N=536)**	(n=128)	(n=75)	(n=125)	(n=13)	(n=46)	(n=77)	(n=6^)	(n=66)
White/off-white powder or rock	83	**89↑**	93	95	94	62	80	84	67	86
Brown powder or rock	51	**53**	81	35	42	39	67	57	33	30
% Form most used last 6 months (n)	(N=525)	**(N=523)**	(n=122)	(n=75)	(n=122)	(n=14)	(n=46)	(n=75)	(n=6^)	(n=64)
White powder or rock	70	**76**	64	91	85	57	67	69	67	84
Brown powder or rock	25	**21**	36	8	11	36	30	29	33	9
Other colour or homebake	5	**3**	0	1	4	7	2	2	0	6

Source: IDRS PWID interviews
^ Small numbers reported; interpret with caution (n<10)

Table 6. Use of heat and acid in the preparation of last heroin injection among recent heroin users who commented, 2014

	National		NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
	2013	**2014**								
% Heated in the last injection (n)	(N=522) 38	**(N=528)** **29↓**	(n=122) 25	(n=75) 32	(n=125) 10	(n=13) 54	(n=45) 40	(n=76) 53	(n=6^) 17	(n=66) 30
% Acid in the last injection (n)	(N=511) 5	**(N=514)** **3**	(n=119) 7	(n=75) 1	(n=125) 1	(n=3^) 0	(n=44) 2	(n=76) 5	(n=6^) 0	(n=66) 0
% Main Colour[#] (n)	(N=196)	**(N=146)**	(n=32)	(n=25)	(n=14)	(n=9)	(n=19)	(n=27)	(n=1^)	(n=19)
White	38	**48**	22	56	86	56	42	37	100	68
Brown	53	**45**	63	32	14	33	58	59	0	26
Other	10	**8**	16	12	0	11	0	4	0	5

Source: IDRS PWID interviews
^ Recent = use in the last six months preceding interview
[#] Among those who reported either heating or using acid to prepare their last injection of heroin
^ Small numbers reported; interpret with caution (n<10)

Availability, Purity and Price

Table 7. Reports of current heroin availability and purity by PWID *who commented*, 2014

	National		NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
	2013	**2014**								
% Current availability (n)	(N=487)	**(N=515)**	(n=128)	(n=83)	(n=115)	(n=7^)	(n=41)	(n=77)	(n=4^)	(n=60)
Very easy	47	**50**	50	39	58	0	46	52	0	57
Easy	38	**39**	37	46	37	43	44	40	0	33
Difficult	13	**10**	12	16	4	57	7	8	25	8
Very difficult	5	**2**	2	0	1	0	2	0	75	2
% Current purity (n)	(N=475)	**(N=499)**	(n=124)	(n=78)	(n=112)	(n=5^)	(n=41)	(n=77)	(n=4^)	(n=58)
High	7	**10**	13	8	8	20	7	17	0	7
Medium	32	**30**	36	32	25	40	34	27	0	29
Low	50	**46**	37	55	56	40	49	29	100	52
Fluctuates	11	**13**	15	5	11	0	10	27	0	12

Source: IDRS PWID interviews
^ Small numbers reported; interpret with caution (n<10)
Note: The response option 'don't know' was excluded from analysis

Table 8. Median price of last heroin purchase, 2013-2014

	Median price $ per cap		Median price $ per gram	
	2013	**2014**	2013	**2014**
National	50	**50**	300	**320**
NSW	50	**50**	350	**400**
ACT	50	**50**	300	**300**
VIC	50	**50**	250	**250**
TAS	50^	**-**	-	**450^**
SA	100	**50**	420^	**400**
WA	100^	**75^**	600	**600**
NT	100^	**-**	275^	**-**
QLD	50^	**50^**	380	**400**

Source: IDRS PWID interviews
^ Small numbers reported; interpret with caution (n<10)

METHAMPHETAMINE

Patterns of Methamphetamine Use

Table 9. Proportion of PWID who reported use of any form of methamphetamine^, last six months, 2003-2014

%	National	NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
2003	76	53	71	79	88	73	90	69	89
2004	75	56	81	71	91	71	85	70	81
2005	75	58	73	79	95	78	75	72	78
2006	79	72	92	81	83	78	86	64	82
2007	74	62	83	74	88	74	69	68	78
2008	69	74	74	69	74	69	74	57	59
2009	67	57	75	70	80	61	61	55	70
2010	60	57	59	60	70	74	65	36	59
2011	66	60	73	65	77	66	64	55	71
2012	68	72	77	67	77	79	72	48	53
2013	66	75	66	61	74	75	72	43	58
2014	**70**	**75**	**76**	**77**	**70**	**75**	**66**	**37**	**72**

Source: IDRS PWID interviews
^ includes speed powder, base, ice/crystal and liquid methamphetamine

Table 10. Proportion of PWID who reported use of speed powder, last six months, 2003-2014

%	National	NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
2003	55	31	48	70	51	53	71	60	58
2004	53	35	41	65	60	44	61	60	61
2005	60	38	59	75	76	39	61	69	65
2006	56	49	58	71	54	39	66	57	54
2007	55	35	55	65	63	42	61	58	62
2008	48	38	37	64	61	34	61	50	35
2009	48	33	46	65	56	33	54	50	46
2010	41	29	48	53	56	29	51	25	41
2011	44	30	46	49	67	36	43	43	40
2012	40	17	42	39	70	34	45	46	30
2013	34	14	29	23	61	40	48	31	37
2014	**30**	**17**	**36**	**25**	**50**	**34**	**39**	**16**	**31**

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

Table 11. Proportion of PWID who reported use of base methamphetamine, last six months, 2003-2014

%	National	NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
2003	35	32	13	18	46	51	40	30	50
2004	38	31	25	11	72	46	45	26	60
2005	39	38	28	13	79	61	54	16	40
2006	38	43	32	15	55	52	37	25	53
2007	32	41	32	8	48	42	22	20	48
2008	22	33	18	5	25	37	13	10	34
2009	28	36	21	13	55	31	12	16	41
2010	21	29	18	3	40	43	8	6	30
2011	21	17	17	11	39	35	6	12	37
2012	18	15	15	11	43	32	6	7	21
2013	13	12	6	3	17	31	11	7	22
2014	**12**	**12**	**4**	**3**	**19**	**30**	**8**	**4**	**22**

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

Table 12. Proportion of PWID who reported use of ice/crystal methamphetamine, last six months, 2003-2014

%	National	NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
2003	54	38	65	50	69	48	80	34	60
2004	52	45	73	41	52	48	83	32	51
2005	43	38	62	29	50	46	68	21	36
2006	57	57	88	53	56	49	76	29	55
2007	46	50	80	43	38	41	56	29	39
2008	49	69	68	39	32	49	61	28	40
2009	37	46	57	32	26	30	43	15	46
2010	39	48	48	36	20	60	40	18	37
2011	45	53	57	53	26	44	46	28	50
2012	54	68	66	59	43	56	64	26	44
2013	55	74	61	55	45	57	59	30	50
2014	**61↑**	**74**	**72**	**75**	**54**	**60**	**53**	**26**	**58**

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

Table 13. Median days of methamphetamine use in the last six months among those who had used methamphetamine, 2014[#]

	National		NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
	2013	**2014**								
Speed	10	**6**	6	9	4.5	11	12	8	6	6
Base	6	**6**	4	56^	8^	12	24	4^	4^	4
Ice/crystal	12	**20↑**	28	48	12	6	24	15	14	11
Any form[@]	24	**24**	39	48	12	18	48	15	10	11

Source: IDRS PWID interviews
[#] Among those who had used. Maximum number of days, i.e. daily use = 180. See page 1 for guide.
^ Small numbers reported; interpret with caution (n<10)
[@] Includes speed powder, base, ice/crystal and liquid forms.

Table 14. Reports of current methamphetamine availability by PWID who commented, 2014

	National		NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
	2013	**2014**								
% Speed (n)	(N=238)	**(N=192)**	(n=21)	(n=27)	(n=23)	(n=44)	(n=30)	(n=24)	(n=9^)	(n=14)
Very easy	39	**34**	29	30	26	41	30	54	11	36
Easy	45	**51**	52	67	44	48	53	42	56	43
Difficult	15	**14**	14	4	26	11	17	4	33	14
Very difficult	2	**2**	5	0	4	0	0	0	0	7
% Base (n)	(N=88)	**(N=79)**	(n=15)	(n=1^)	(n=1^)	(n=15)	(n=31)	(n=3^)	(n=3^)	(n=10)
Very easy	39	**34**	40	0	0	27	36	67	0	40
Easy	41	**49**	27	100	100	67	52	33	67	40
Difficult	15	**11**	13	0	0	7	13	0	0	20
Very difficult	6	**5**	20	0	0	0	0	0	33	0
% Ice/crystal (n)	(N=379)	**(N=451)**	(n=105)	(n=61)	(n=83)	(n=40)	(n=57)	(n=44)	(n=22)	(n=39)
Very easy	42	**49**	52	48	54	25	46	52	41	64
Easy	46	**42**	41	44	35	58	47	39	46	28
Difficult	12	**9**	5	8	11	18	7	9	14	8
Very difficult	0	**0**	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Source: IDRS PWID interviews
^ Small numbers reported; interpret with caution (n<10)
Note: The response option 'don't know' was excluded from analysis

Table 15. Reports of current methamphetamine purity by PWID who commented, 2014

	National		NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
	2013	**2014**								
% Speed (n)	(N=239)	**(N=192)**	(n=20)	(n=26)	(n=24)	(n=43)	(n=31)	(n=25)	(n=9^)	(n=14)
High	23	**29**	35	31	38	14	23	52	33	14
Medium	37	**37**	25	46	46	30	52	20	22	43
Low	26	**20**	30	15	13	30	16	4	22	29
Fluctuates	14	**15**	10	8	4	26	10	24	22	14
% Base (n)	(N=92)	**(N=76)**	(n=12)	(n=1^)	(n=1^)	(n=15)	(n=31)	(n=3^)	(n=3^)	(n=10)
High	27	**31**	58	0	0	27	29	33	0	30
Medium	40	**32**	25	100	0	13	42	0	67	30
Low	15	**20**	17	0	0	47	7	37	33	10
Fluctuates	17	**17**	0	0	100	13	23	0	0	30
% Ice/crystal (n)	(N=375)	**(N=441)**	(n=96)	(n=61)	(n=82)	(n=41)	(n=60)	(n=43)	(n=20)	(n=38)
High	44	**40**	28	38	45	44	50	54	20	40
Medium	30	**31**	33	38	35	29	27	19	35	26
Low	13	**12**	18	12	11	10	12	5	15	5
Fluctuates	13	**17**	21	13	9	17	12	23	30	29

Source: IDRS PWID interviews
^ Small numbers reported; interpret with caution (n<10)
Note: The response option 'don't know' was excluded from analysis

Table 16. Median price of last methamphetamine purchase, 2013-2014#

	Median price $ per point						Median price $ per gram					
	Speed powder		Base		Ice/crystal		Speed powder		Base		Ice/crystal	
	2013	**2014**	2013	**2014**	2013	**2014**	2013	**2014**	2013	**2014**	**2013**	**2014**
National	50	**50**	90	**100**	100	**100**	275	**300**	325	**375**	500	**500**
NSW	50	**50**	50	**50**	50	**50**	300	**350^**	100^	**150^**	388	**475**
ACT	50	**50**	65^	**-**	100	**100**	200^	**275**	475^	**-**	700	**500**
VIC	50^	**50**	75^	**100^**	100	**100**	160^	**175**	220^	**-**	300^	**500**
TAS	50	**50**	50^	**50^**	100	**100**	300	**300^**	300^	**300^**	-	**325^**
SA	100	**100**	100	**100**	100	**100**	550^	**600^**	450^	**550^**	650^	**600**
WA	100	**100**	100^	**75^**	100	**100**	350^	**700^**	-	**-**	700^	**675^**
NT	100	**100^**	50^	**90^**	140	**150**	400^	**420^**	700^	**700^**	800^	**1050^**
QLD	100	**65^**	100	**100^**	100	**100**	500^	**450^**	400^	**350^**	600^	**550^**

Source: IDRS PWID interviews
Among those who had used in the last 6 months
^ Small numbers reported; interpret with caution (n<10)

COCAINE

Patterns of Cocaine Use

Table 17. Proportion of PWID who reported using cocaine in the preceding six months, 2003-2014

%	National	NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
2003	18	53	13	13	9	13	10	5	16
2004	16	47	10	10	4	6	15	10	10
2005	22	60	20	15	8	16	19	10	11
2006	20	67	8	19	12	8	10	8	9
2007	22	63	18	22	5	7	16	9	15
2008	20	58	18	24	4	4	15	3	13
2009	21	61	22	15	2	10	12	12	15
2010	18	57	6	14	5	12	15	4	13
2011	17	47	8	17	7	12	10	1	13
2012	15	44	16	9	11	7	15	4	4
2013	16	41	16	11	5	9	15	7	11
2014	**12**	**32**	**15**	**10**	**8**	**7**	**7**	**2**	**9**

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

Table 18. Median days of cocaine use in the preceding six months of those who had used cocaine, 2003-2014[#]

	National	NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
2003	4	5	4	2	4^	2	5.5	2^	2.5
2004	4	6	5	2	1.5^	1.5^	2	6	2
2005	5	12	2	3	4.5^	3.5	3	1	6.5
2006	5.5	20	3^	2	3	1.5^	3	3^	3^
2007	5	20	3	3	2^	2^	4	2^	1.5
2008	6	12	2.5	4.5	4.5^	1.5^	2	8^	3
2009	5	20	2	3	2.5^	3	1.5	4.5	2
2010	5	12	2^	5	3^	1	3	5.5^	5
2011	5	10	8^	3	2^	2	2	1^	2
2012	3	7	2	3.5	1	3^	2	2^	4^
2013	3	6	3.5	3.5	2^	3^	1	6.5^	2
2014	**2**	**3**	**2**	**2**	**2^**	**2^**	**4^**	**3^**	**1^**

Source: IDRS PWID interviews
[#] Among those who had used in the last 6 months. Maximum number of days, i.e. daily use = 180. See page 1 for guide.
^ Small numbers reported; interpret with caution (n<10)

Availability, Purity and Price

Table 19. Reports of current cocaine availability and purity by PWID *who commented*, 2014

	National		NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
	2013	**2014**								
% Current availability (n)	(N=64)	**(N=53)**	(n=32)	(n=4^)	(n=8^)	(n=2^)	(n=1^)	(n=2^)	(n=1^)	(n=3^)
Very easy	28	**34**	38	25	25	0	0	50	0	67
Easy	42	**38**	47	50	13	0	0	0	100	33
Difficult	27	**25**	16	25	50	100	0	50	0	0
Very difficult	3	**4**	0	0	13	0	100	0	0	0
% Current purity (n)	(N=64)	**(N=51)**	(n=30)	(n=4^)	(n=8^)	(n=2^)	(n=1^)	(n=2^)	(n=1^)	(n=3)
High	28	**29**	23	0	63	50	0	0	0	67
Medium	36	**33**	30	75	38	0	0	50	100	0
Low	27	**26**	27	25	0	50	100	50	0	33
Fluctuates	9	**12**	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Source: IDRS PWID interviews
^ Small numbers reported; interpret with caution (n<10)
Note: The response option 'don't know' was excluded from analysis

Table 20. Median price of last cocaine purchase, 2013-2014

	Median price $ per cap		Median price $ per gram	
	2013	**2014**	2013	**2014**
National	50	**50**	325	**350**
NSW	50	**50**	300	**400**
ACT	50^	**50^**	350^	**417^**
VIC	90^	**75^**	400^	**300^**
TAS	140^	**-**	-	**-**
SA	50^	**-**	-	**-**
WA	-	**-**	700^	**-**
NT	-	**-**	-	**-**
QLD	-	**-**	300^	**350^**

Source: IDRS PWID interviews
^ Small numbers reported; interpret with caution (n<10)

CANNABIS

Patterns of Cannabis Use

Table 21. Proportion of PWID who reported cannabis use in the preceding six months, 2003-2014

%	National	NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
2003	83	79	86	88	88	80	81	83	76
2004	82	80	85	81	87	83	84	75	75
2005	82	80	89	86	87	80	76	79	76
2006	83	80	90	83	88	77	80	84	85
2007	81	79	83	83	87	81	69	83	84
2008	77	80	80	74	86	75	64	78	82
2009	76	79	81	79	89	61	72	79	69
2010	75	72	81	81	79	66	70	72	77
2011	79	81	87	85	78	69	71	71	79
2012	76	72	81	85	81	61	79	71	70
2013	72	80	75	80	71	61	61	67	67
2014	**73**	**77**	**74**	**75**	**82**	**75**	**69**	**62**	**70**

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

Table 22. Median days of cannabis use in the preceding six months of those who had used cannabis, 2003-2014[#]

	National	NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
2003	180	180	180	170	180	180	100	120	125
2004	180	180	180	180	180	180	120	180	120
2005	178	180	180	130	180	120	139	180	104
2006	170	180	180	180	180	180	105	103	105
2007	175	180	175	120	180	180	90	150	98
2008	180	180	180	175	180	180	72	135	72
2009	180	180	180	100	180	90	96	90	150
2010	180	180	180	180	180	76	113	93	96
2011	180	180	180	180	180	110	98	90	150
2012	160	180	180	178	180	90	120	90	90
2013	170	100	180	163	180	180	170	180	72
2014	**96↓**	**96**	**180**	**120**	**180**	**120**	**72**	**72**	**40**

Source: IDRS PWID interviews
[#] Among those who had used in the last 6 months Maximum number of days = 180. See page 1 for guide

Availability, Potency and Price

Table 23. Reports of current cannabis availability and potency by PWID *who commented*, 2014

	National		NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
	2013	**2014**								
% Current availability (n)										
Hydro	(N=464)	**(N=485)**	(n=103)	(n=58)	(n=52)	(n=62)	(n=61)	(n=59)	(n=54)	(n=36)
Very easy	53	**51**	55	64	56	61	41	39	32	56
Easy	40	**40**	35	33	37	39	44	48	61	28
Difficult	7	**9**	9	3	8	0	13	14	7	17
Very difficult	1	**0**	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Bush	(N=204)	**(N=211)**	(n=30)	(n=12)	(n=15)	(n=53)	(n=43)	(n=29)	(n=18)	(n=11)
Very easy	27	**29**	20	50	40	40	23	21	17	27
Easy	47	**43**	63	33	33	40	47	35	44	36
Difficult	25	**26**	13	17	20	21	28	45	33	27
Very difficult	3	**2**	3	0	7	0	2	0	6	9
% Current potency (n)										
Hydro	(N=461)	**(N=479)**	(n=103)	(n=56)	(n=52)	(n=63)	(n=60)	(n=57)	(n=53)	(n=35)
High	58	**55**	59	45	48	65	65	65	45	37
Medium	30	**32**	27	45	37	19	30	25	34	49
Low	4	**3**	1	9	4	2	0	4	8	3
Fluctuates	9	**10**	13	2	12	14	5	7	13	11
Bush	(N=207)	**(N=205)**	(n=28)	(n=12)	(n=15)	(n=52)	(n=43)	(n=27)	(n=18)	(n=10)
High	27	**22**	21	17	13	12	33	30	22	30
Medium	54	**54**	46	50	60	60	51	48	56	60
Low	9	**11**	11	25	7	14	7	11	11	0
Fluctuates	10	**14**	21	8	20	15	9	11	11	10

Source: IDRS PWID interviews
Note: The response option 'don't know' was excluded from analysis

Table 24. Median price of last cannabis purchase, 2013-2014

	Median price $ per gram				Median price $ per ounce			
	Hydro		Bush		Hydro		Bush	
	2013	**2014**	2013	**2014**	2013	**2014**	2013	**2014**
National	20	**20**	20	**20**	300	**300**	240	**220**
NSW	20	**20**	20	**20**	300	**300**	240	**220^**
ACT	20	**20**	20	**12.50^**	300	**280**	265	**210^**
VIC	20	**20**	-	**20**	250	**250**	150^	**230^**
TAS	25	**25**	20	**20**	280	**260^**	245^	**200^**
SA	25[#]	**25[#]**	25[#]	**25[#]**	200	**210**	205^	**190**
WA	28	**25**	30^	**25^**	350	**350**	200^	**250^**
NT	30	**30**	30^	**30^**	450	**450**	300^	**350^**
QLD	20	**25**	20^	**20^**	300^	**280^**	225^	**250^**

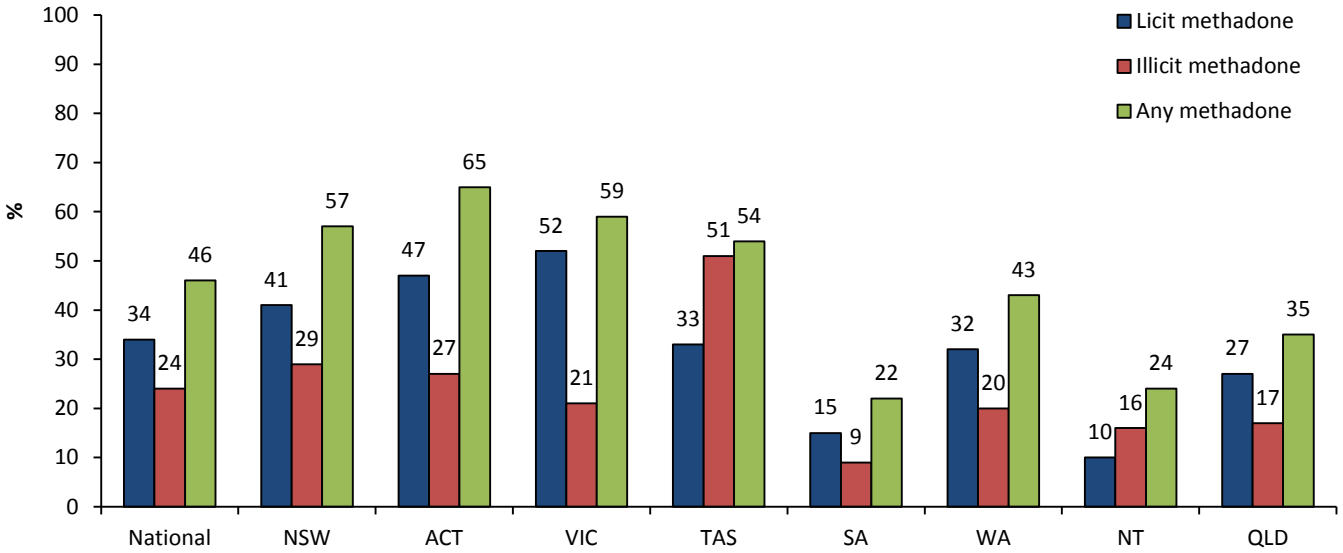
Source: IDRS PWID interviews
^ Small numbers reported; interpret with caution (n<10)
[#] SA purchase is per bag instead of per gram

USE OF OTHER DRUGS

The following figures reflect use by current injecting drug users; therefore figures should not be viewed as representative of people in opioid substitution therapy or drug dependence treatment programs more generally. 'Licit' refers to drugs that were prescribed directly to the participant, while 'illicit' refers to drugs that were directly prescribed to another person.

Recent use of methadone

Figure 1: Proportion of PWID who reported the use of licit (prescribed) and illicit methadone (any form) in the preceding six months, 2014



Source: IDRS PWID interviews
Note: Recent use includes methadone syrup and Physeptone tablets. In 2013, any methadone use nationally was 48%.

Methadone injection

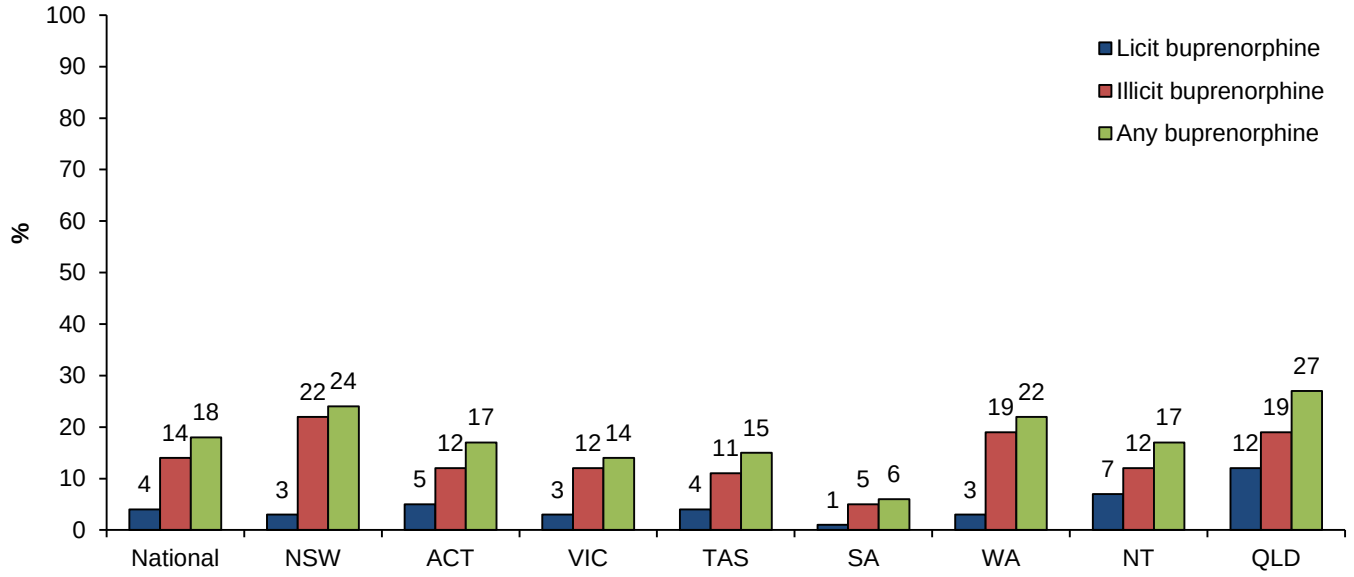
Table 25. Proportion of PWID who reported injecting methadone (any form) in the preceding six months, 2003-2014[#]

%	National	NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
2003	28	16	34	2	81	25	19	43	26
2004	29	28	32	5	81	21	14	32	29
2005	26	14	31	3	69	24	26	35	26
2006	30	25	40	7	72	26	30	32	22
2007	30	20	45	11	69	27	33	32	21
2008	30	23	38	15	81	11	14	41	26
2009	26	27	37	13	77	10	10	26	13
2010	26	25	34	11	65	16	14	30	18
2011	26	31	28	9	62	14	20	25	20
2012	22	19	22	8	55	14	29	22	12
2013	24	31	28	5	57	15	25	14	17
2014	**21**	**27**	**24**	**11**	**52**	**8**	**18**	**17**	**17**

Source: IDRS PWID interviews
[#] From 2003 these figures include licit and illicit methadone and Physeptone
Note: Recent injection includes methadone syrup and Physeptone tablets

Recent use of buprenorphine

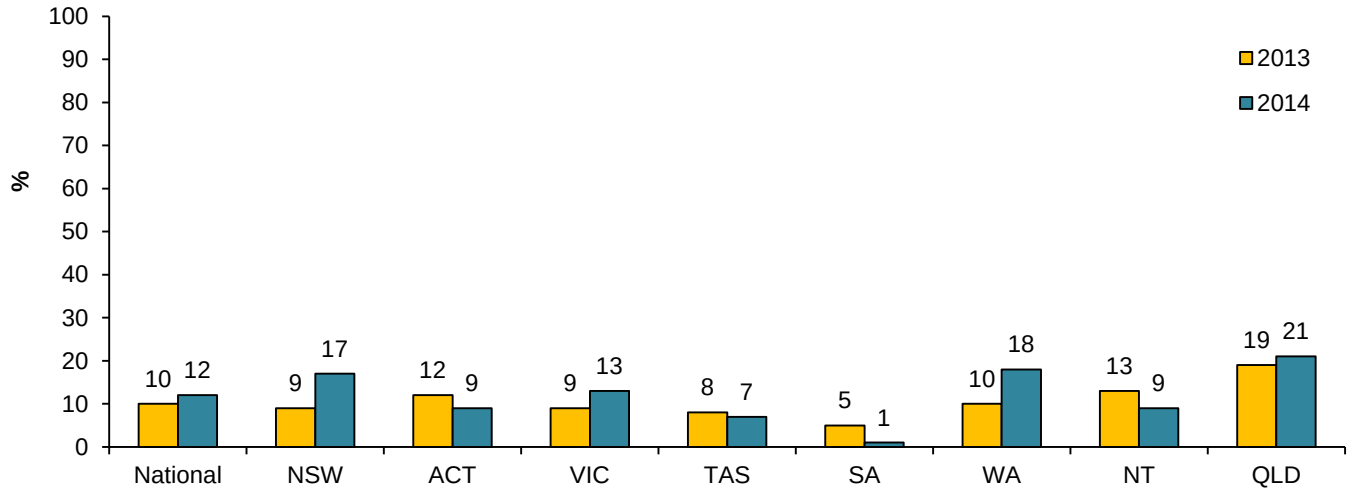
Figure 2: Proportion of PWID who reported use of licit (prescribed) and illicit buprenorphine in the preceding six months, 2014



Source: IDRS PWID interviews
Note: In 2013, any buprenorphine use nationally was 16%.

Buprenorphine injection

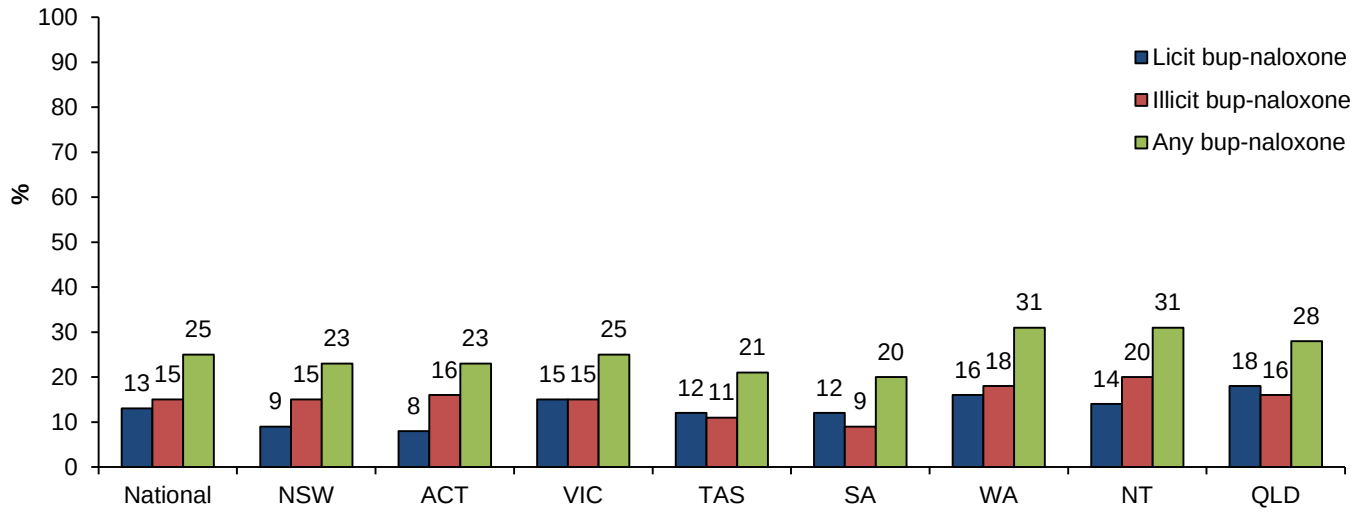
Figure 3: Recent injection of buprenorphine (any form) among the national sample, by jurisdiction, 2013-2014



Source: IDRS PWID interviews

Recent use of buprenorphine-naloxone

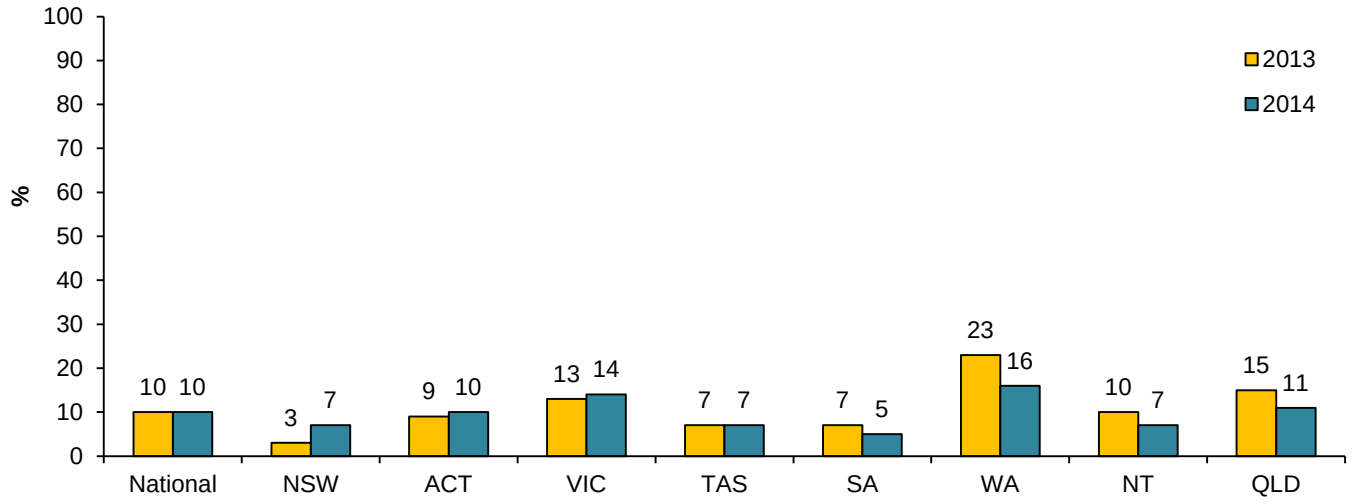
Figure 4: Proportion of PWID who reported use of licit (prescribed) and illicit buprenorphine-naloxone (any form) in the preceding six months, 2014



Source: IDRS PWID interviews
Note: Recent use includes buprenorphine-naloxone TABLET and FILM. In 2013, any buprenorphine-naloxone use nationally was 24%.

Buprenorphine-naloxone injection

Figure 5: Recent injection of buprenorphine-naloxone (any form) among the national sample, by jurisdiction, 2013-2014



Source: IDRS PWID interviews
Note: Recent injection includes buprenorphine-naloxone TABLET and FILM

Recent use of morphine

Table 26. Proportion of PWID who reported recent use of morphine (any form), 2003-2014

%	National	NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
2003	47	23	50	42	72	43	41	82	42
2004	49	29	40	43	62	42	46	87	50
2005	44	27	37	42	59	37	52	80	32
2006	52	36	57	35	62	51	55	81	53
2007	53	38	56	41	68	44	49	82	56
2008	50	37	40	41	81	35	34	89	54
2009	44	31	43	33	82	24	37	70	42
2010	46	35	43	35	74	25	30	91	42
2011	43	28	34	34	75	23	36	81	41
2012	43	23	36	29	66	28	49	77	39
2013	38	21	29	21	66	27	39	80	40
2014	**37**	**29**	**17**	**25**	**71**	**22**	**29**	**85**	**34**

Source: IDRS PWID interviews
Note: In 2014 nationally, recent use of morphine licit = 7% and illicit =35%

Morphine injection

Table 27. Recent injection of morphine (any form) among the national sample, by jurisdiction, 2007-2014

%	National	NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
2007	50	34	50	39	66	41	49	76	58
2008	47	29	37	37	81	35	32	87	53
2009	42	30	41	31	81	22	34	68	41
2010	43	31	39	29	74	24	29	91	38
2011	41	23	26	33	72	20	36	78	46
2012	40	21	29	25	66	27	47	74	33
2013	35	19	24	19	65	23	38	78	36
2014	**35**	**27**	**13**	**22**	**71**	**20**	**28**	**84**	**31**

Source: IDRS PWID interviews
Note: In 2014 nationally, recent injection of morphine licit =5% and illicit =34%

Recent use of oxycodone

Table 28. Proportion of PWID who reported recent use of oxycodone (any form), 2005-2014

%	National	NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
2005	21	16	17	19	31	17	41	11	19
2006	26	20	26	27	30	22	44	11	27
2007	30	28	26	29	42	20	46	12	39
2008	30	31	31	27	54	15	27	31	29
2009	32	28	30	27	56	11	33	41	35
2010	32	36	14	32	61	21	26	33	29
2011	36	38	25	41	47	26	33	32	39
2012	39	50	35	29	59	30	53	22	35
2013	36	43	20	25	62	27	39	28	44
2014	**33**	**44**	**21**	**25**	**49**	**26**	**30**	**24**	**40**

Source: IDRS PWID interviews
Note: Data collection commenced in 2005.
In 2014 nationally, recent use of oxycodone licit = 7% and illicit =29%

Oxycodone injection

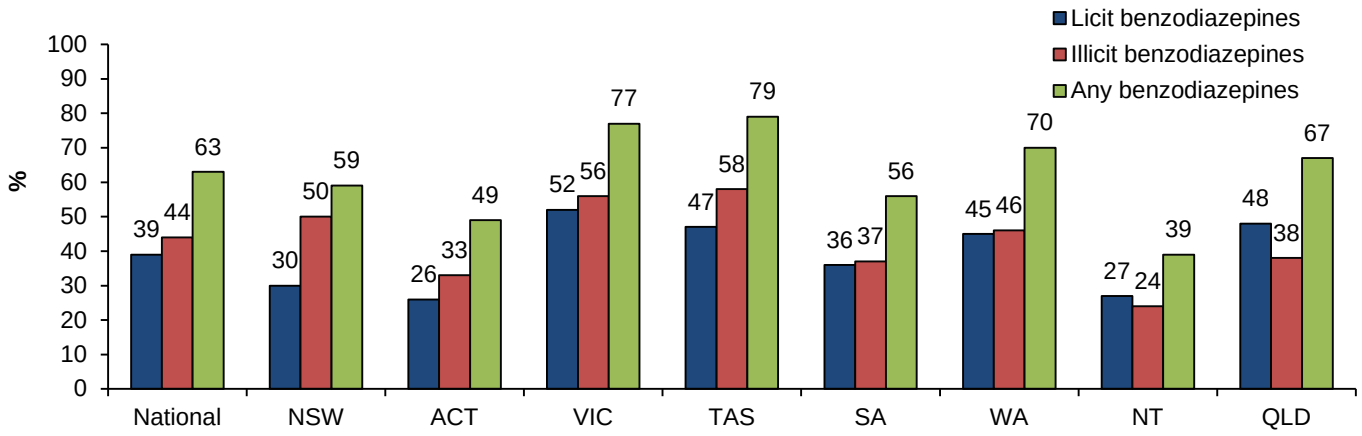
Table 29. Recent injection of oxycodone (any form) among the national sample, by jurisdiction, 2007-2014

%	National	NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
2007	27	25	23	28	30	20	43	9	38
2008	26	24	25	24	47	11	24	29	27
2009	29	26	27	24	56	11	29	30	34
2010	28	31	11	29	57	18	24	28	27
2011	31	32	17	36	44	20	31	27	41
2012	33	42	31	24	59	23	48	20	24
2013	31	37	18	22	60	15	35	23	36
2014	**28**	**39**	**11**	**20**	**47**	**17**	**29**	**23**	**34**

Source: IDRS PWID interviews
Note: In 2014 nationally, recent injection of oxycodone licit = 3% and illicit =27%

Recent use of benzodiazepines

Figure 6: Proportion of PWID who reported use of licit (prescribed) and illicit benzodiazepines in the preceding six months, 2014



Source: IDRS PWID interviews
Note: Recent use includes Alprazolam and other benzodiazepines. In 2013, any benzodiazepine use nationally was 64%.

Benzodiazepine injection

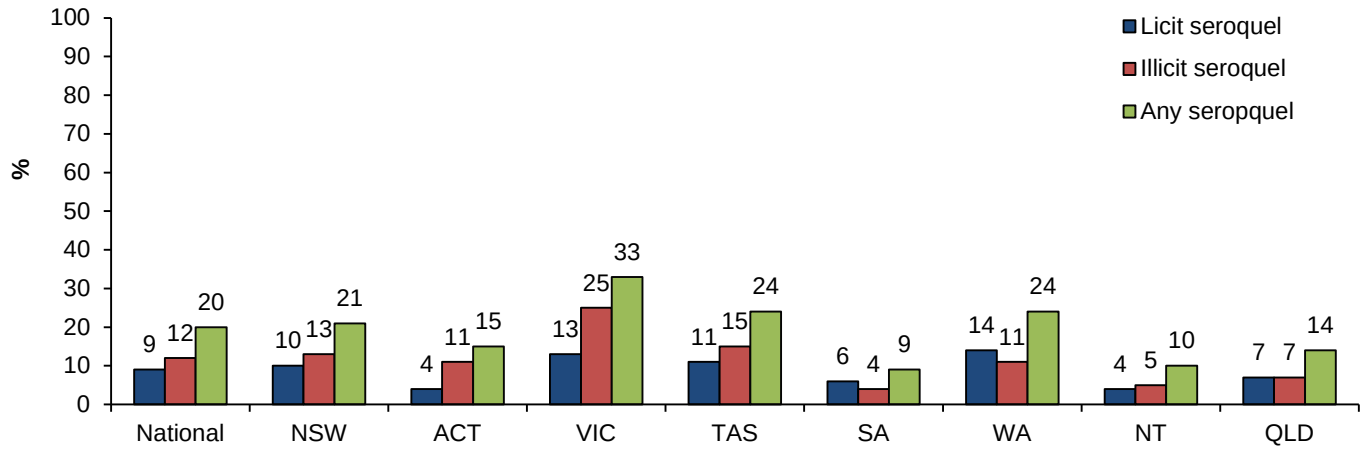
Table 30. Recent injection of benzodiazepines (any form) among the national sample, by jurisdiction, 2003-2014

%	National	NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
2003	17	20	9	15	31	8	12	30	11
2004	14	13	7	16	30	9	12	20	8
2005	8	2	2	6	23	2	7	21	7
2006	12	4	1	9	34	10	11	19	10
2007	11	<1	11	11	29	7	9	20	3
2008	11	3	7	7	36	2	3	26	5
2009	8	3	3	6	25	4	3	22	4
2010	8	6	1	4	16	3	3	23	5
2011	10	3	6	8	23	4	6	22	14
2012	7	2	6	4	26	3	6	11	2
2013	6	1	2	2	23	4	0	7	7
2014	**4**	**3**	**3**	**3**	**9**	**2**	**1**	**8**	**3**

Source: IDRS PWID interviews
Note: Recent injection includes Alprazolam and other benzodiazepines
In 2014 nationally, recent injection of any benzodiazepine licit =1% and illicit =3%

Recent use of Seroquel®

Figure 7: Proportion of PWID who reported use of licit (prescribed) and illicit Seroquel® in the preceding six months, 2014



Source: IDRS PWID interviews
Note: In 2013, any Seroquel use nationally was 18%.

Alcohol and tobacco

Table 31. Patterns of alcohol and tobacco use by PWID in the preceding six months, 2014

	National		NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
	N=887	N=898	n=150	n=100	n=150	n=101	n=106	n=98	n=93	n=100
	2013	**2014**								
% Recent use										
Alcohol	59	**57**	50	55	68	43	61	63	52	63
Tobacco	91	**92**	93	89	97	89	93	89	93	91
% Median days used by those who had used[#]										
Alcohol	24	**24**	12	44	27	6	15	24	48	21
Tobacco	180	**180**	180	180	180	180	180	180	180	180

Source: IDRS PWID interviews
[#] Maximum number of days, i.e. daily use = 180. See page 1 for guide.

HEALTH RELATED DRUG PROBLEMS

Injection-related issues

Table 32. Proportion of injection-related issues in last month, 2014

	National		NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
	N=887	N=898	n=150	n=100	n=150	n=101	n=106	n=98	n=93	n=100
	2013	**2014**								
% Scarring/bruising	37	**38**	39	39	43	37	38	37	39	29
% Difficult injecting	33	**37**	35	38	39	36	31	49	41	32
% Dirty hit	11	**9**	5	8	11	15	6	9	5	12
% Infection/abscess	5	**4**	5	5	7	4	3	4	5	1
% Thrombosis	3	**5**	5	5	4	9	3	5	4	4
% Overdose	2	**3**	8	3	2	1	0	4	0	4

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

Table 33. Injecting risk behaviour in last month, 2014

	National		NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
	N=887	N=898	n=150	n=100	n=150	n=101	n=106	n=98	n=93	n=100
	2013	**2014**								
% Borrowed a needle	7	**6**	9	8	11	2	2	6	2	4
% Lent a needle	11	**12**	15	11	17	6	7	18	3	15
% Shared injecting equipment^	24	**25**	34	18	27	31	18	18	29	22
% Reused own needle	40	**41**	44	42	49	38	43	43	22	40
% Reused own injecting equipment	52	**56**	61	35	55	50	63	56	77	55
% Injecting equipment reused# (n)	(N=465)	**(N=507)**	(n=91)	(n=35)	(n=82)	(n=50)	(n=67)	(n=55)	(n=72)	(n=55)
Spoons	81	**81**	85	77	93	60	63	80	93	82
Filters	11	**9**	17	0	16	8	3	7	3	7
Tourniquets	40	**40**	45	20	16	48	46	46	61	35
Water	15	**15**	31	23	13	14	12	13	1	13
Swabs	2	**3**	3	0	4	0	3	6	3	0
Wheel filters	1	**4**	2	6	1	10	0	4	8	6
Other	1	**2**	1	3	2	2	3	6	0	2
% Last site of injection (n)	(N=859)	**(N=868)**	(n=146)	(n=95)	(n=148)	(n=91)	(n=106)	(n=94)	(n=93)	(n=95)
Arm	74	**76**	74	91	75	70	76	76	71	72
Leg	6	**4**	5	3	4	4	2	1	11	4
Hand/wrist	13	**13**	13	5	7	13	17	16	14	16
Foot	2	**2**	1	1	3	7	0	3	1	1
Groin	2	**2**	3	0	5	2	0	2	1	2
Neck	3	**3**	1	0	5	3	5	2	1	3
Other	1	**1**	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	2

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

^ includes spoons, water, tourniquets and filters and excludes needles

Among those who re-used injected equipment

Note: 'Borrowed' – used a needle after somebody else and 'Lent' – used a needle before somebody else

Mental health problems

Table 34. Self reported mental health problems experienced in the preceding six months, 2014

	National		NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
	N=887	N=793	n=138	n=78	n=136	n=79	n=106	n=89	n=75	n=92
	2013	**2014**								
% Self-reported mental health problem in the last six months	44	**44**	32	44	57	44	30	53	35	57
% Problem in the last six months[#]	(N=388)	**(N=346)**	(n=44)	(n=33)	(n=77)	(n=35)	(n=32)	(n=47)	(n=26)	(n=52)
Depression	66	**68**	64	64	73	69	75	79	42	64
Anxiety	46	**48**	27	52	48	60	44	49	31	65
Manic-depression/Bipolar	10	**13**	16	12	9	6	16	23	12	12
Schizophrenia	15	**15**	25	24	14	9	13	9	12	12
Panic	8	**11**	9	9	10	20	19	11	0	8
Paranoia	4	**7**	11	12	9	3	3	6	8	4
Drug induced psychosis	4	**7**	14	9	3	6	6	9	4	6
Phobias	2	**3**	2	3	3	9	3	2	0	0
% Attended health professional for mental health problem in the last six months[#]	74	**72**	75	74	71	77	63	83	62	64
% Health professional attended	(N=285)	**(N=248)**	(n=33)	(n=24)	(n=55)	(n=27)	(n=20)	(n=39)	(n=16)	(n=32)
General Practitioner	67	**63**	42	63	64	85	75	72	63	44
Psychiatrist	29	**29**	36	33	27	22	30	23	38	25
Psychologist	25	**24**	18	21	29	26	20	23	13	31
Counsellor	17	**16**	18	17	15	15	20	13	0	28
Community health nurse	4	**2**	6	0	2	4	0	0	0	0
Mental health nurse	7	**6**	0	13	7	11	5	5	0	3
Hospital emergency department	3	**2**	3	0	2	0	0	5	6	3
Psychiatric ward	3	**3**	3	8	4	0	0	3	6	0
Social worker	n.a.	**7**	15	0	4	4	10	0	6	16
Other	3	**4**	9	0	4	0	0	8	0	3

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

[#] Among those who reported a mental health issue

n.a not available as an option in 2013

Ageing

Table 35. Lifetime diagnosis among PWID, 2014

	National	NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
	2014								
% Lifetime diagnosis (n)	**(N=845)**	(n=150)	(n=100)	(n=150)	(n=68)	(n=106)	(n=91)	(n=93)	(n=92)
Asthma	**34**	38	29	40	34	37	31	23	34
Gout, rheumatism, arthritis	**17**	15	14	16	19	23	14	21	15
Respiratory disease	**16**	15	13	17	12	17	20	14	16
Heart/circulatory condition	**12**	13	7	14	9	12	15	15	12
Skin problems	**11**	8	8	16	6	7	17	8	20
Cancer	**7**	8	3	3	7	9	8	12	11
Stroke	**5**	7	3	5	0	7	4	4	3
Diabetes/high blood sugar levels	**5**	7	3	3	10	3	6	5	5

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

Criminal activity

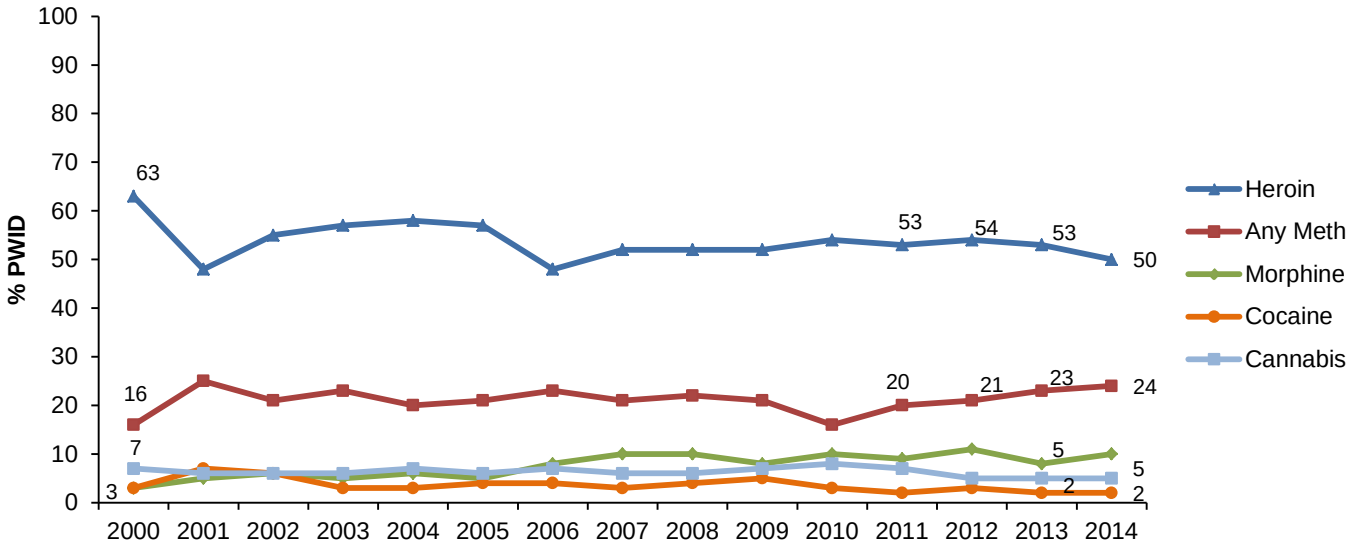
Table 36. Proportion of PWID that reported criminal activity, 2014

	National		NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
	N=887	N=898	n=150	n=100	n=150	n=101	n=106	n=98	n=93	n=100
	2013	**2014**								
% Crime in the last month										
Drug dealing	23	**25**	25	14	28	32	25	36	13	23
Property	18	**18**	24	10	23	26	9	18	10	20
Fraud	2	**4**	6	3	7	1	2	5	0	6
Violence	3	**5**	7	3	7	5	2	7	1	4
Any crime	36	**38**	43	22	47	50	31	48	19	40
% Arrested last 12 months	32	**33**	46	22	43	35	21	38	14	39

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

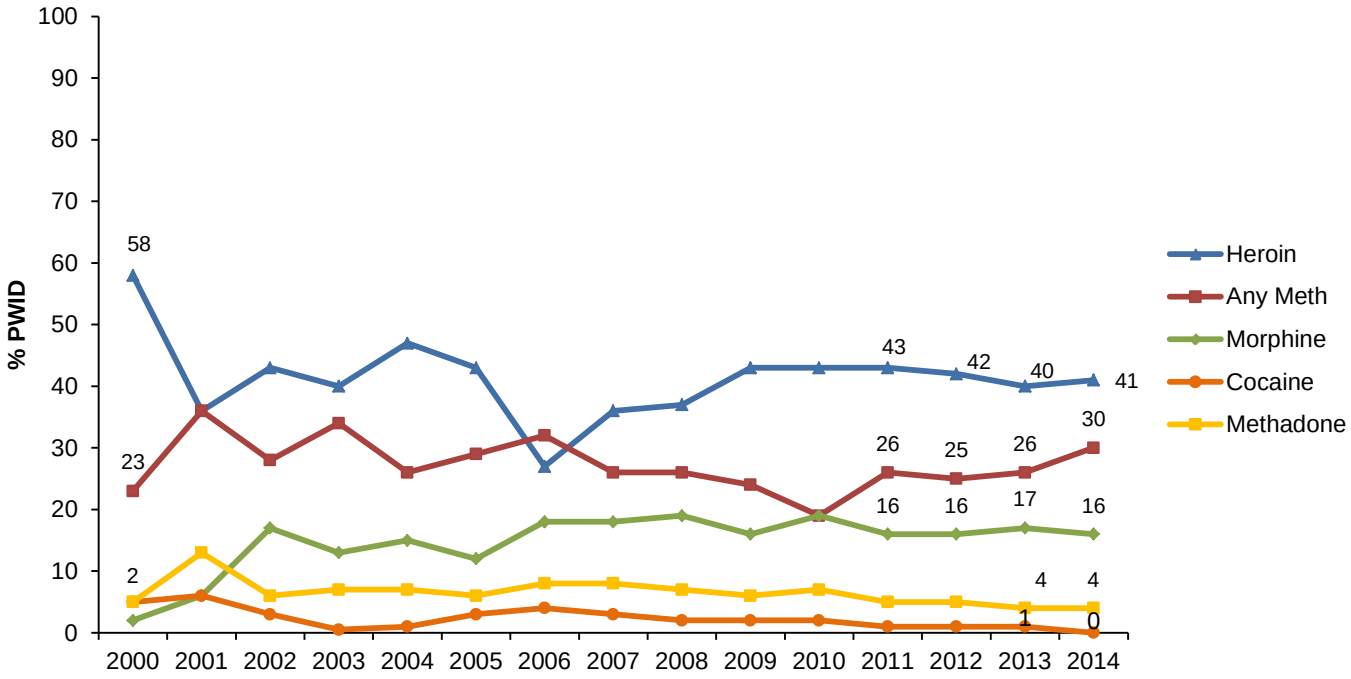
NATIONAL IDRS DRUG TRENDS

Figure 8: Drug of choice, nationally, 2000-2014



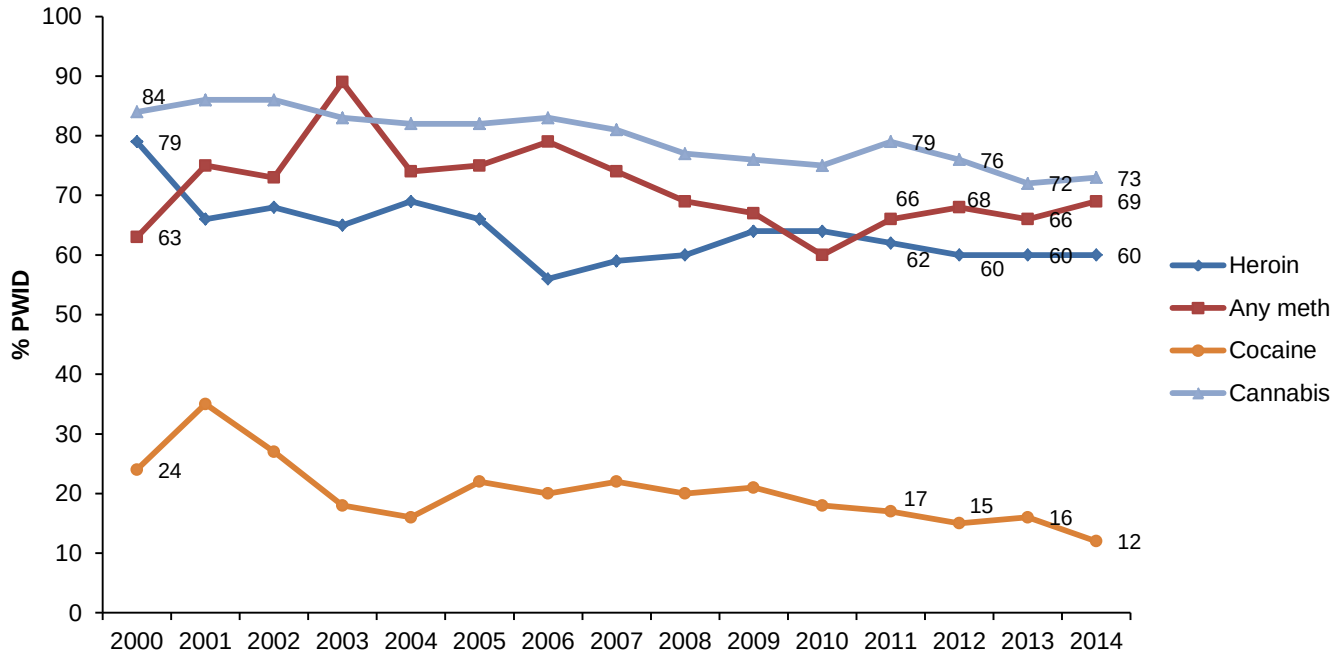
Source: IDRS PWID interviews

Figure 9: Drug injected most often in the last month, nationally, 2000-2014



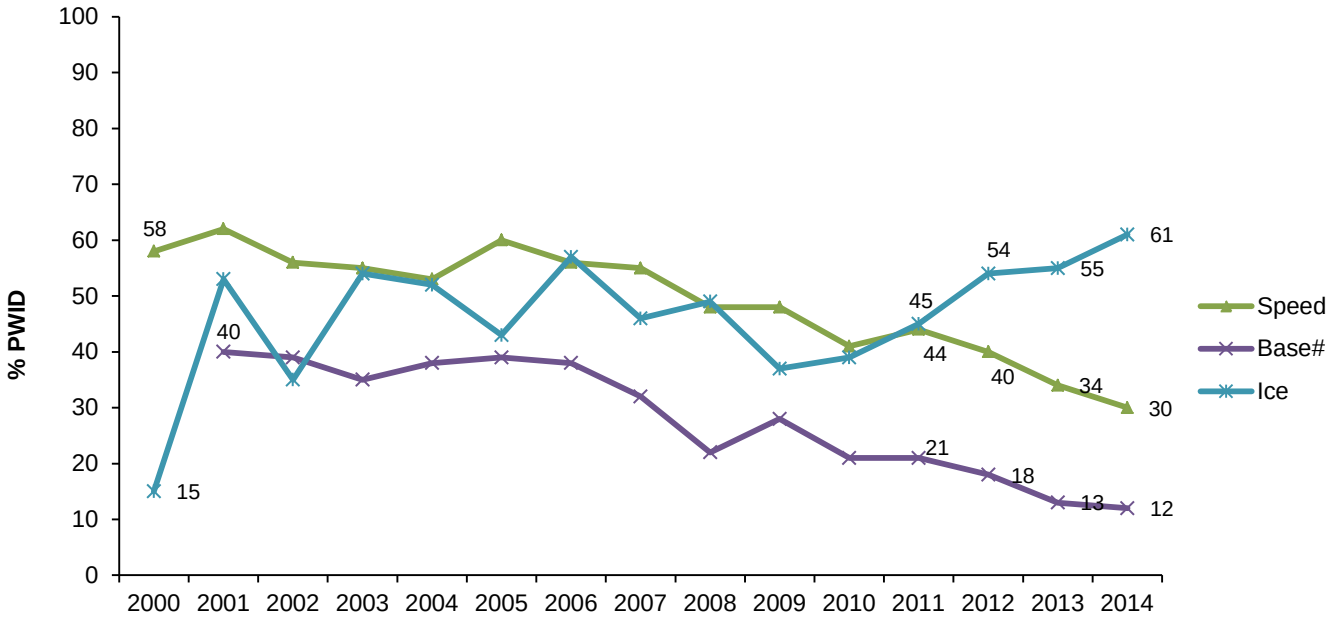
Source: IDRS PWID interviews

Figure 10: Recent use of heroin, any methamphetamine, cocaine and cannabis, nationally, 2000-2014



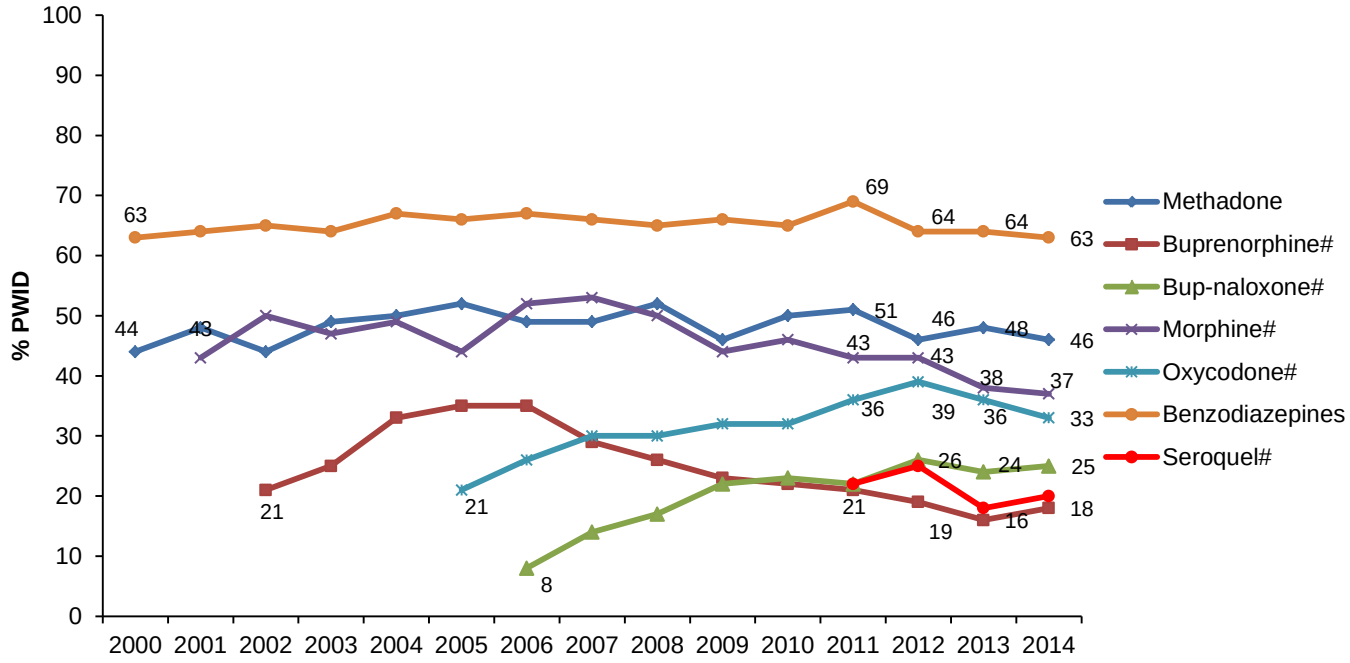
Source: IDRS PWID interviews

Figure 11: Recent use of speed, base and crystal/ice, nationally, 2000-2014



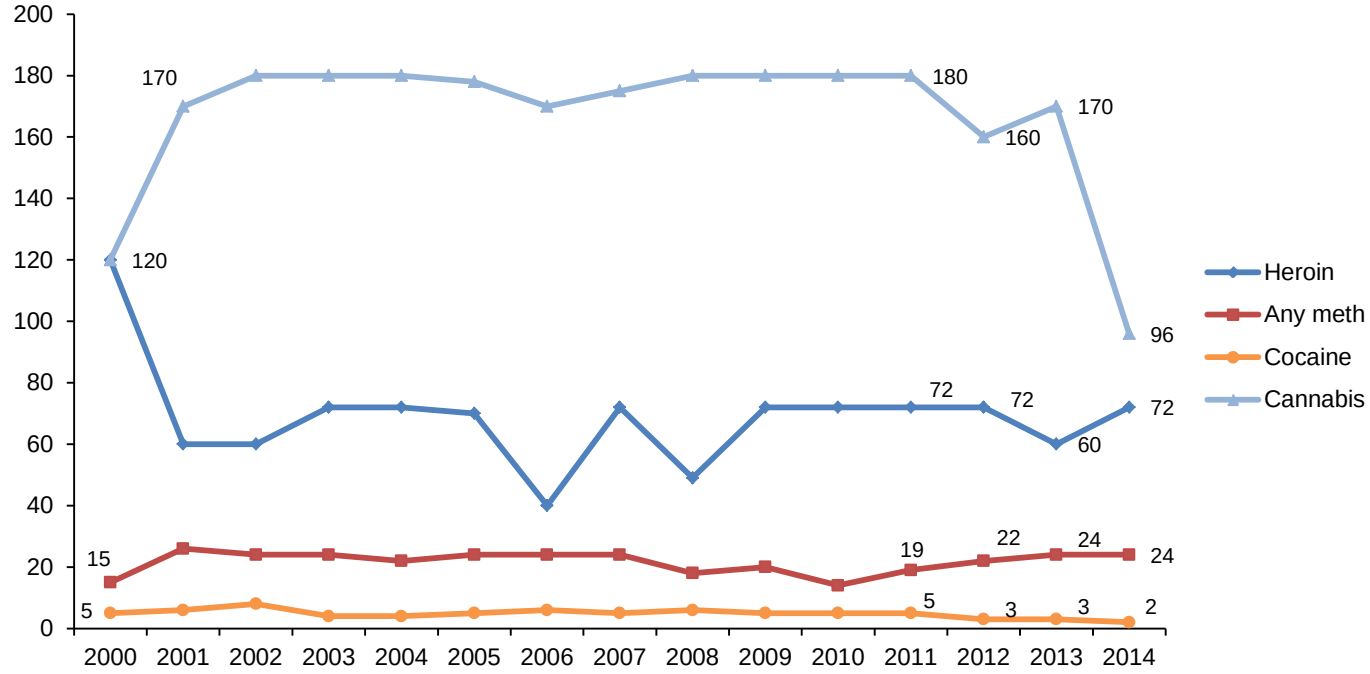
Source: IDRS PWID interviews
[#] Base asked separately from 2001 onwards.

Figure 12: Recent use of other drugs, nationally, 2000-2014



Source: IDRS PWID interviews
[#] Data collection started in 2001 for morphine, 2002 for buprenorphine, 2005 for oxycodone, 2006 for buprenorphine-naloxone and 2011 for Seroquel

Figure 13: Median days of heroin, methamphetamine (any form), cocaine and cannabis use among participants who had recently used, nationally, 2000-2014



Source: IDRS PWID interviews

AUSTRALIAN DRUG TRENDS 2014

FINDINGS FROM THE

ECSTASY AND RELATED DRUGS REPORTING SYSTEM (EDRS)

Key findings- Drug Trends Conference Handouts

The Ecstasy and Related Drugs Reporting System (EDRS) is a national monitoring system for ecstasy and related drugs that is intended to serve as a strategic early warning system, identifying emerging trends of local and national interest in the markets for these drugs. The EDRS was conducted across Australia for the first time in 2003.

The EDRS is based on the Illicit Drug Reporting System (IDRS) methodology and consists of three components: interviews with regular ecstasy users (REU) and Regular Psychostimulant Users (RPU); interviews with key experts (KEs), professionals who have regular contact with regular psychostimulant users through their work; and analysis and examination of indicator data sources related to ecstasy and other related drugs. The EDRS monitors the price, purity, availability and patterns of use of ecstasy, methamphetamine, cocaine, ketamine, GHB, MDA and LSD. The EDRS is designed to be sensitive to trends, providing data in a timely manner, rather than describing issues in extensive detail.

It is important to note that the results from the user surveys are not representative of ecstasy and other related drug use in the general population, but this is *not* the aim of these data. These data are intended to provide evidence that is indicative of emerging issues that warrant further investigation. Participants are a *sentinel* group of regular ecstasy/psychostimulant users that provide information on patterns of drug use and market trends.

This handout (provided as part of the 2014 National Drug Trends Conference) presents key findings for the 2014 EDRS (survey component) and may be subject to minor change. Final figures will appear in the 2014 national and jurisdictional reports, to be released next year (April 2015). Previous years' data are available in reports published elsewhere, and are accessible on the NDARC website www.ndarc.med.unsw.edu.au.

Definitions:
Recent use - used in the last 6 months (includes smoking, snorting, swallowing, shafting and injecting as routes of administration)
Regular ecstasy users (REU) - those who have used ecstasy 6 or more times in the last 6 months
Regular psychostimulant users (RPU) - those who have used illicit psychostimulants 6 or more times in the last 6 months
↑ **Significant increase** from previous year (2013) compared with current year (2014)
↓ **Significant decrease** from previous year (2013) compared with current year (2014)

Guide to median days of use
Throughout this document, median days of drug use are reported. Median days are calculated on the six monthly period prior to interview. As an indication:

180 days = daily use	**90 days = use every 2nd day**	**24 days = weekly use**
48 days = twice weekly use	**12 days = fortnightly use**	**6 days = monthly use**

Note: due to rounding of percentages or multiple responses, some columns may not add to 100%

Note: In recent years, certain smaller jurisdictions experienced difficulty with recruitment in using REU criteria related to MDMA (Ecstasy) use. So the decision was made in 2013 for all states and territories to broaden the criteria, to include the regular use (at least monthly use i.e. six separate occasions) of any psychostimulants including: ecstasy, methamphetamine, MDA, cocaine, ketamine, GHB, LSD, mephedrone, or new psychoactive substances (NPS) such as 2C-B, 2C-I over the previous six month period. All other eligibility criteria were identical to previous REU criteria including:

- Be at least 16 years of age (due to ethical constraints, however it may vary by jurisdiction due to ethical approval) and;
- Have been a resident of the capital city* in which the interview took place for at least the preceding 12 months.

* Unlike other jurisdictions, no restrictions were placed on the length of time participants had resided in the NT due to the transient nature of Darwin residents. NT participants also had to have purchased in Darwin to be included in the national dataset.

KEY FINDINGS FROM THE 2014 EDRS

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

Table 1. Demographic characteristics of EDRS participants, 2014

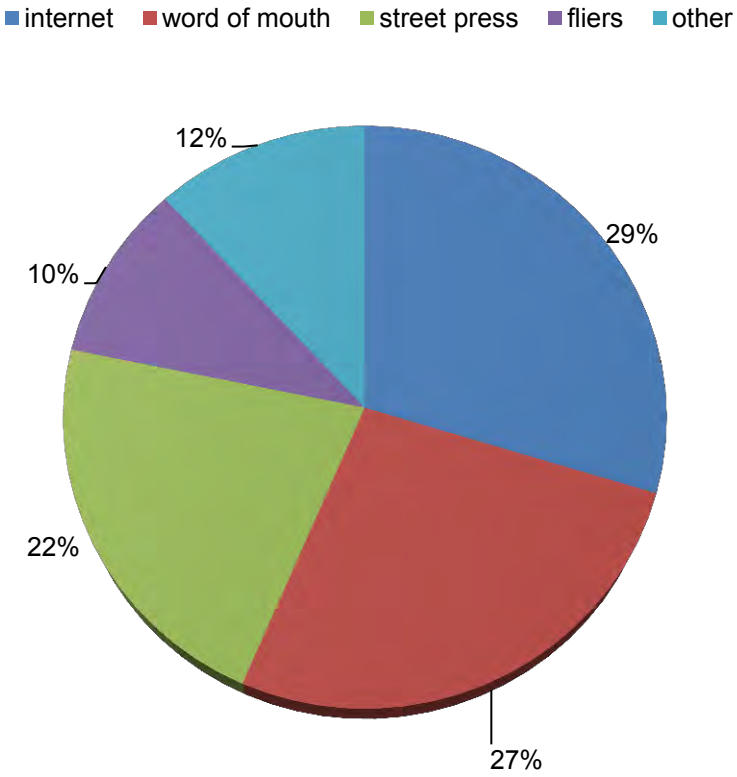
	National (N=686)	National (N=800)	NSW (n=100)	ACT (n=100)	VIC (n=100)	TAS (n=100)	SA (n=100)	WA (n=100)	NT (n=100)	QLD (n=100)
	2013	**2014**								
Mean age (years)	23	**23**	24	22	25	24	22	21	23	25
% Male	67	**66**	71	69	69	63	62	69	57	67
% English speaking background	97	**97**	97	99	93	98	97	98	98	96
% Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	2	**2**	2	5	2	3	1	0	5	0
% Heterosexual	88	**89**	85	94	89	93	80	93	96	82
Mean years of school education	12	**12**	12	12	12	12	12	12	11	12
% Tertiary qualifications	44	**46**	39	68	50	49	31	29	56	50
% Employed full-time	26	**25**	21	45	17	27	15	23	32	17
% Students[#]	15	**14**	38	1	21	19	10	4	0	17
% Unemployed	16	**15**	6	9	14	13	10	16	30	21
Mean income per week	N=654 $550	**N=764 $601**	N=94 $545	N=98 $719	N=94 $564	N=98 $570	N=96 $491	N=97 $590	N=90 $898	N=97 $452
% Currently in drug treatment	3	**2**	3	2	1	2	1	0	1	3

Source: EDRS participant interviews
[#] full-time students only

PARTICIPANT RECRUITMENT 2014

- 10% of participants nationally reported to have completed the EDRS survey in a previous year.
- Four participants (<1%) nationally reported having completed the IDRS survey previously.
- Participants were primarily recruited through the internet (websites such as facebook and pillreports.com) followed by word-of-mouth and street press.

Figure 1: Recruitment methods for EDRS participants, 2014



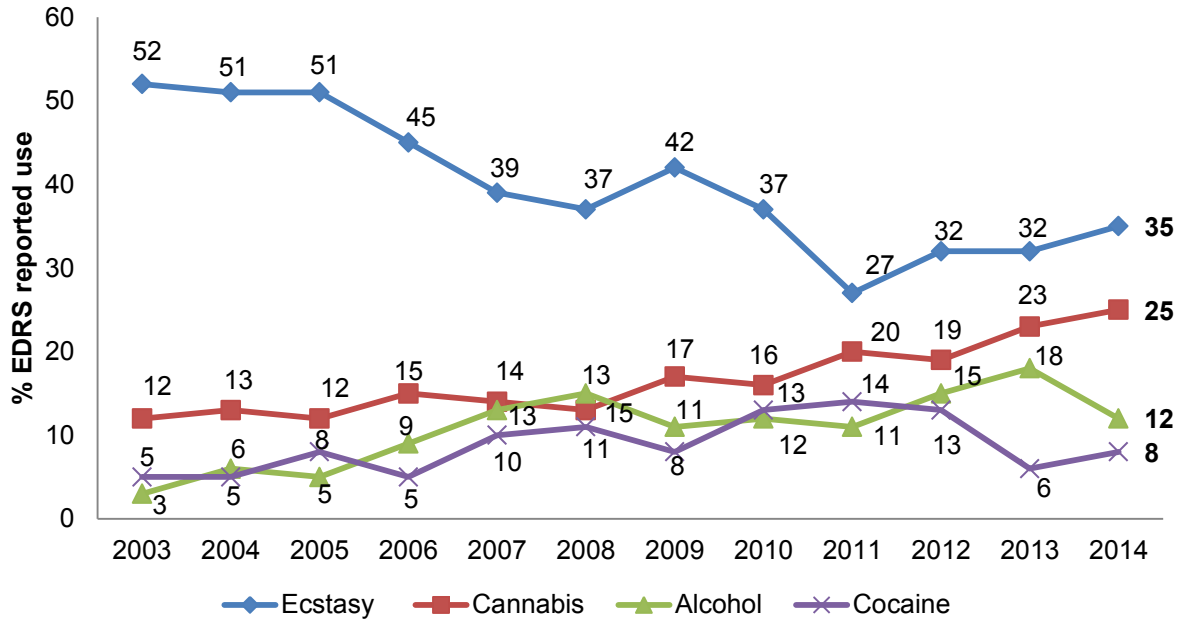
DRUG USE HISTORY

Table 2. Drug use history of EDRS participants, 2014

%	National (N=686)	National (N=800)	NSW (n=100)	ACT (n=100)	VIC (n=100)	TAS (n=100)	SA (n=100)	WA (n=100)	NT (n=100)	QLD (n=100)
Drug of choice	**2013**	**2014**								
Ecstasy	33	**36**	39	50	44	21	29	40	33	29
Cannabis	23	**25**	31	27	13	20	33	22	30	20
Alcohol	18	**12** ↓	15	5	4	16	18	20	16	3
Cocaine	6	**8**	4	9	9	10	9	4	5	16
LSD	7	**6**	4	4	5	8	4	2	4	16
Ice/crystal	3	**3**	2	1	9	0	2	2	7	3
Speed	4	**3**	1	3	3	16	0	0	0	2
Heroin	1	**1**	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	4
Base	<1	**<1**	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Mushrooms	1	**1**	1	0	2	1	2	1	1	0
Ketamine	1	**1**	0	0	5	0	0	1	1	1
GHB*	<1	**<1**	1	1	2	0	0	0	1	0
Pharm Stimulant #	<1	**<1**	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	1
Pharm Opioids#	<1	**<1**	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Nitrous Oxide	<1	**<1**	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0
MDA	<1	**<1**	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Benzodiazepines#	<1	**<1**	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
2C-B	n.a	**<1**	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2
DMT	n.a	**<1**	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1
Other drugs	2	**1**	0	0	2	2	0	2	1	1
Binged on any stimulant**	39	**36**	19	48	44	24	26	37	50	39

Source: EDRS participant interviews
Includes licitly and illicitly obtained pharmaceutical stimulants, pharmaceutical opioids and benzodiazepines.
* includes GHB, GBL and 1,4B
** Binged defined as the use of any stimulant for more than 48 hours continuously without sleep
n.a not available as an option last year

Figure 2: Drug of choice for EDRS participants, nationally, 2003-2014



Source: EDRS participant interviews

ECSTASY

Ecstasy use among EDRS participants

Table 3. Forms of ecstasy used among EDRS participants, 2014

(%)	National (N=686)	National (N=800)	NSW (n=100)	ACT (n=100)	VIC (n=100)	TAS (n=100)	SA (n=100)	WA (n=100)	NT (n=100)	QLD (n=100)
	2013	**2014**								
Ecstasy pills (tablets)	96	**92**	89	92	90	94	96	98	99	81
Ecstasy/MDMA crystals	39	**49 ↑**	61	54	64	29	36	58	43	45
Ecstasy capsules (caps)	50	**53**	76	56	66	49	37	51	32	53
Ecstasy/MDMA powder	27	**24**	15	13	43	20	18	20	26	36

Source: EDRS participant interviews

Table 4. Patterns of ecstasy use among EDRS participants, 2014

%, median (range)	National (N=683)	National (N=800)	NSW (n=100)	ACT (n=100)	VIC (n=100)	TAS (n=100)	SA (n=100)	WA (n=100)	NT (n=100)	QLD (n=100)
	2013	**2014**								
Median days used ecstasy in 6 months[#]	12	**13**	16	13.5	17	11	12	14	12	10
% Use ecstasy weekly or more[#]	26	**26**	**26**	34	31	10	27	23	30	28
Median tablets in 'average' session	2 (0.5-28)	2 (0.5-12.5)	2 (1-8)	2 (1-5)	2 (0.5-8)	2 (0.5-4)	2 (0.5-12.5)	2 (1-10)	2 (0.5-10)	2 (1-6)
% Typically use >2 tablet	29	28	38	24	27	7	47	37	22	22
Median caps in 'average' session	1.5 (0.25-10)	**2 (0.15-10)**	2 (0.75-5)	2 (1-6)	1.25 (0.5-4)	1 (0.5-5)	1.5 (0.5-6)	2 (0.15-4)	1.5 (1-10)	2 (0.5-6)
Median powder (grams) in 'average' session	0.5 (0.05-3)	**0.5 (0.1-10)**	0.65^ (0.1-2)	0.4^ (0.1-2)	0.5 (0.15-1.5)	1^ (0.1-2)	1^ (0.5-10)	0.5 (0.1-4)	1 (0.1-2)	0.5^ (0.1-1)
Median MDMA crystals (caps) in 'average' session	1 (0.05-12)	**2 (0.1-7)**	2 (0.1-4)	2 (1-6)	2^ (no range)	2^ (1-3)	2 (0.5-7)	2 (0.5-4)	2 (1-5)	2^ (1-3)
% Recently binged* on ecstasy	31	**24 ↓**	14	39	32	10	19	27	28	22
% Use other drugs with ecstasy	91	**84 ↓**	92	70	90	92	94	89	71	75
% Use other drugs to come down from ecstasy	57	**54**	62	43	51	67	55	55	40	57

Source: EDRS participant interviews
[#] Includes pills, powder and capsules. Maximum number of days, i.e. daily use = 180.
*Bingeing defined as the use of ecstasy for more than 48 hours continuously without sleep.

Table 5. Median days of ecstasy* use in the preceding six months, 2003-2014

	National	NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
2003	12	12	12	15	14	12	12	12	24
2004	15	20	14	15	12	12	12	16	24
2005	15	15	12.5	13	13	15	12	24	17
2006	12	15	16	12	12	12	12	12	14
2007	12	12	12	12	11	12	12	15	12
2008	12	12	18	15	12	12	12	15	12
2009	12	14	13	12	12	15	12	12	12
2010	12	12	12	12	6	12	10	12	12
2011	12	12	12	12	6	12	12	10	12
2012	12	12	12.5	12	10	12	6.5	9^	18
2013	11	12	10	9.5	8	12	12	8	12
2014	**10**	**9**	**12**	**12**	**8**	**12**	**12**	**8**	**6**

Source: EDRS participant interviews
* Among those who had used in the last 6 months. Refers only to ecstasy pills. Maximum number of days, i.e. daily use = 180.

Table 6. Last location of ecstasy use while intoxicated, 2014

%	National (N=670)	National (N=747)	NSW (n=96)	ACT (n=100)	VIC (n=94)	TAS (n=97)	SA (n=96)	WA (n=97)	NT (n=84)	QLD (n=85)
	2013	**2014**								
Nightclubs	41	**40**	27	45	49	28	45	41	33	51
Live music event	10	**15**	23	9	7	3	17	31	17	11
Raves*	6	**5**	8	2	4	6	5	3	6	2
Private parties	10	**12**	5	15	12	22	10	9	7	12
Friend's home	13	**10**	10	10	10	11	6	11	12	11
At own home	10	**7**	10	5	7	8	6	3	10	7
Pubs	5	**7**	7	7	3	19	6	0	9	6
Outdoors	2	**2**	1	1	2	0	4	0	4	0
Dealer's home	<1	**<1**	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	0
Public place	1	**1**	4	2	3	0	0	0	1	0
Other	1	**1**	1	1	1	2	0	1	1	1

Source: EDRS participant interviews
* includes `doofs' and dance parties

Route of administration

Table 7. Main route of administration of ecstasy in the last six months, 2014

%	National (N=685)	National (N=790)	NSW (n=99)	ACT (n=100)	VIC (n=97)	TAS (n=99)	SA (n=100)	WA (n=100)	NT (n=100)	QLD (n=95)
	2013	**2014**								
Swallow	86	**87**	93	91	89	75	85	90	85	83
Snort	13	**13**	6	9	10	24	15	8	15	13
Inject	<1	**<1**	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Other	<1	**<1**	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	2

Source: EDRS participant interviews
Note: 'Other' includes methods of smoking and shelve/shaft

Availability, purity and price

Table 8. Current availability and purity of ecstasy pills, powder, capsules 2014

%	National		NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
	2013	2014								
Current availability %	**(N=664)**	**(N=740)**	(n=94)	(n=100)	(n=91)	(n=95)	(n=96)	(n=99)	(n=80)	(n=85)
Very easy	45	**42 ↑**	46	41	47	22	53	54	44	29
Easy	41	**47 ↑**	47	47	46	58	41	41	40	52
Difficult	14	**10**	6	11	7	18	6	4	14	15
Very difficult	<1	**1**	1	1	0	2	0	1	3	4
Current purity %	**(N=660)**	**(N=735)**	(n=87)	(n=98)	(n=91)	(n=96)	(n=97)	(n=100)	(n=81)	(n=85)
Low	20	**21**	20	24	18	16	24	21	22	27
Medium	42	**36**	22	47	35	33	38	35	31	47
High	15	**19**	28	11	28	18	17	16	25	14
Fluctuates	23	**23**	31	18	20	33	21	28	22	12

Source: EDRS participant interviews
Note: The response 'don't know' was excluded from analysis

Table 9. Current availability and purity of MDMA Crystal/rock, 2014

%	National		NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
	2013	2014								
Current availability %	**n.a**	**(N=315)**	(n=45)	(n=53)	(n=48)	(n=31)	(n=27)	(n=51)	(n=22)	(n=38)
Very easy	n.a	**27**	33	28	27	16	19	20	46	29
Easy	n.a	**41**	33	57	35	26	44	51	18	47
Difficult	n.a	**28**	29	13	33	48	37	28	23	24
Very difficult	n.a	**4**	4	2	4	10	0	2	14	0
Current purity %	**n.a**	**(N=313)**	(n=42)	(n=56)	(n=48)	(n=29)	(n=28)	(n=51)	(n=21)	(n=38)
Low	n.a	**9**	7	13	6	3	14	10	14	3
Medium	n.a	**26**	14	46	25	17	25	26	19	21
High	n.a	**58**	67	32	58	69	60	57	67	71
Fluctuates	n.a	**8**	12	9	10	10	0	8	0	5

Source: EDRS participant interviews
Note: The response 'don't know' was excluded from analysis
n.a data was not available for that year

Table 10. Median price of last ecstasy purchase per tablet, 2007-2014

$	National	NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
2007	30	30	30	30	40	30	40	50	30
2008	30	30	30	28	35	25	40	50	25
2009	25	20	25	25	35	20	35	50	20
2010	25	25	25	25	35	23	35	35	25
2011	30	25	30	25	30	20	30	35	25
2012	25	25	25	30	30	20	35	40^	25
2013	25	25	25	25	30	20	35	35	25
2014	**25**	**25**	**25**	**25**	**30**	**20**	**35**	**40**	**25**

Source: EDRS participant interviews
^ Small numbers reported; interpret with caution (n<10)

Ecstasy markets/patterns of purchasing ecstasy

Table 11. Patterns of purchasing ecstasy by jurisdiction in the last 6 months, 2014

	National (N=683)	National (N=749)	NSW (n=96)	ACT (n=100)	VIC (n=92)	TAS (n=97)	SA (n=98)	WA (n=99)	NT (n=82)	QLD (n=85)
	2013	**2014**								
Median no. of people purchased from (range)	3 (0-80)	**3 (0-25)**	3 (1-20)	3 (1-20)	4 (0-20)	2 (1-25)	3 (1-25)	4 (0-20)	3 (0-20)	3 (0-20)
Purchased for										
%Self only	35	**35**	39	27	40	45	28	34	33	35
%Self and others	62	**62**	58	71	58	51	70	64	65	60
%Others only	1	**1**	2	2	0	1	2	1	1	0
%Did not purchase	3	**2**	1	0	2	3	0	1	1	5
No. of times purchased (%)	(N=656)	**(N=735)**	(n=95)	(n=99)	(n=90)	(n=94)	(n=97)	(n=98)	(n=81)	(n=81)
% 1-6 (Monthly or less)	47	**51**	51	50	34	59	54	52	44	67
% 7-12 (Fortnightly or less)	34	**33**	35	37	41	33	34	31	32	17
% 13-24 (Weekly or less)	16	**15**	13	11	22	7	11	16	22	15
% 25 + (3 x per week or more)	2	**2**	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1
Median no. of pills/tablets purchased	4	**4**	3.5	4	3	3	6	4	3	4

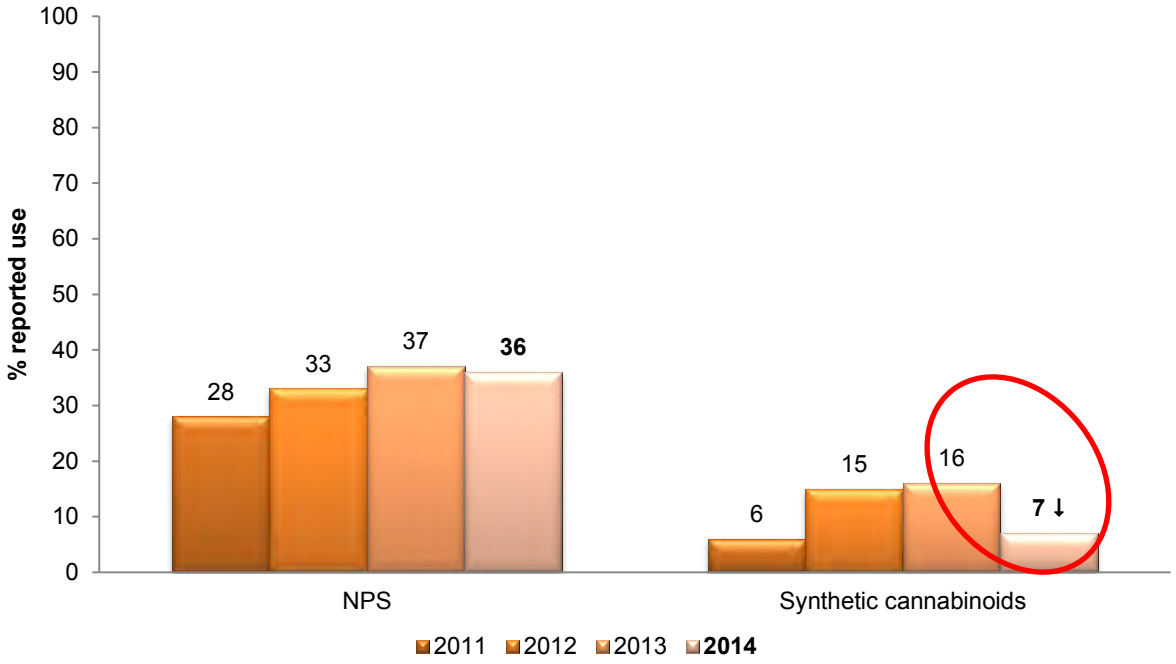
Source: EDRS participant interviews

Table 12. Use of NPS in the six months prior to interview, 2014

%	National 2013 (N=685)	National 2014 (N=800)	NSW (n=100)	ACT (n=100)	VIC (n=100)	TAS (n=100)	SA (n=100)	WA (n=100)	NT (n=100)	QLD (n=100)
Used an NPS	37	**36**	38	17	43	39	37	40	25	51
Used an NPS (including synthetic cannabis)	44	**40**	39	20	47	41	40	43	29	57
Synthetic Cannabinoid	16	**7 ↓**	3	4	9	4	3	12	6	14

Source: EDRS participant interviews

Figure 3: Recent use of NPS and synthetic cannabinoids, nationally, 2011-2014



Source: EDRS participant interviews

Table 13. Phenethylamine class of NPS in the six months prior to interview, 2014

%	National 2013 (N=685)	National 2014 (N=800)	Median days of use	NSW (n=100)	ACT (n=100)	VIC (n=100)	TAS (n=100)	SA (n=100)	WA (n=100)	NT (n=100)	QLD (n=100)
Phenethylamine	**%**	**%**	**Median (range)**	**%**	**%**	**%**	**%**	**%**	**%**	**%**	**%**
2CB	14	**12**	**1.5 (1-24)**	21	6	14	4	10	11	2	24
2CI	8	**6**	**1 (1-24)**	3	3	7	4	8	7	3	10
2CE	1	**<1**	**1^ (1-7)**	1	0	0	2	1	1	0	2
2C- Other	2	**<1**	**2^ (1-10)**	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1
NBOMe	n.a	**9**	**2 (1-48)**	9	3	8	5	16	10	3	18
MDAI	<1	**<1**	**1^ (1-2)**	0	0	1	1	0	2	0	0
Benzo Fury (6-APB)	<1	**<1**	**2^ (1-2)**	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0
Mescaline	3	**2**	**1 (1-3)**	0	0	2	4	5	3	0	1

Source: EDRS participant interviews^ Small numbers reported; interpret with caution (n<10)

Table 14. Other classes of NPS in the six months prior to interview, 2014

%	National 2013 (N=685)	National 2014 (N=800)	Median days of use (range)	NSW n=100	ACT n=100	VIC n=100	TAS n=100	SA n=100	WA n=100	NT n=100	QLD n=100
Tryptamines	**%**	**%**	**Median (range)**	**%**	**%**	**%**	**%**	**%**	**%**	**%**	**%**
5MEO-DMT	1	**<1**	**1^ (1-24)**	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	2
DMT	14	**14**	**1 (1-24)**	11	7	30	9	10	19	8	18
Synthetic Cathinones											
Mephedrone	6	**5**	**2 (1-60)**	0	0	6	23	2	2	5	1
Methylone/bk MDMA	3	**3**	**2 (1-48)**	3	2	4	4	1	4	2	4
Other stimulants											
Ivory Wave/MDPV	1	**<1**	**2.5^(1-20)**	1	0	1	3	0	0	0	1
Piperazines											
BZP	<1	**<1**	**-**	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Dissociative											
DXM (Cough syrup)	4	**3**	**2 (1-10)**	0	1	4	5	0	6	3	2
Methoxetamine (MXE)	2	**2**	**4 (1-15)**	0	0	2	10	0	0	0	1
Plant-based substances											
Salvia divinorum	2	**2**	**1 (1-12)**	0	0	1	1	0	3	5	4
LSA (Hawaiian Baby Woodrose)	2	**1**	**2 (1-3)**	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	5

Source: EDRS participant interviews
^ Small numbers reported; interpret with caution (n<10)
Other drugs include: PMA (2%), Datura/Angel's trumpet: (<1%), DOI (<1%).

Table 15. Synthetic cannabis brands in the six months prior to interview, 2014

%	National 2013 (N=685)	National 2014 (N=800)	Median days of use	NSW (n=100)	ACT (n=100)	VIC (n=100)	TAS (n=100)	SA (n=100)	WA (n=100)	NT (n=100)	QLD (n=100)
	%	**%**	**Median (range)**	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Kronic	8	**3 ↓**	**2.5 (1-50)**	2	2	4	2	3	4	3	5
K2/Spice	3	**2**	**2.5 (1-14)**	1	1	1	1	0	3	2	5
Other Synthetic Canna-binoids	6	**3 ↓**	**1 (1-90)**	0	2	4	2	0	6	2	5

Source: EDRS participant interviews

Table 16. Other NPS in the six months prior to interview, 2014

%	National 2013 (N=685)	National 2014 (N=800)	Median days of use	NSW (n=100)	ACT (n=100	VIC (n=100)	TAS (n=100)	SA (n=100)	WA (n=100)	NT (n=100)	QLD (n=100)
	%	%	Median (range)	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Other Herbal Highs 🏷	8	**4 ↓**	1 (1-30)	4	1	3	3	6	4	3	10
Capsule (contents unknown) ☠	10	**8**	2 (1-30)	5	3	13	11	6	6	9	10

Source: EDRS participant interviews

🏷 The terms 'herbal highs' and 'legal highs' appear to be used interchangeably to mean drugs that have similar effects to illicit drugs like cocaine or cannabis, but are not covered by current drug law scheduling or legislation.

☠ Capsule (contents unknown): a change in trend towards a growing illicit capsule market in Australia whereby consumers are not necessarily aware of what they are consuming. This finding has been supported by KE comments suggesting that the tablet market has had a change in recent years from an actively pill-seeking driven market where users would 'gear up for a big weekend', buying and possibly researching their drugs ahead of time, to a more 'opportunistic' practice of taking drugs that are available/given to them on the night.

Table 17. Online purchasing patterns, 2014

%	National 2014 (N=800)	NSW (n=100)	ACT (n=100)	VIC (n=100)	TAS (n=100)	SA (n=100)	WA (n=100)	NT (n=100)	QLD (n=100)
Ever purchased a drug online	**14**	12	15	19	9	18	14	4	22
Past year purchased a drug online	**11**	10	9	18	6	15	9	4	17

Source: EDRS participant interviews

Of those who had purchased online in the past year (n=86), 67% purchased from 'Silk Road', 27% reported another 'dark web' market place, 16% reported an international webstore ('surface web'), 5% reported having purchased from an Australian webstore ('surface web').

METHAMPHETAMINE

Methamphetamine use among EDRS participants

Table 18. Any form of methamphetamine* in the preceding six months, 2003-2014

%	National	NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
2003	84	87	79	98	82	92	91	82	67
2004	83	89	77	94	76	90	95	82	70
2005	84	83	75	86	78	94	92	76	84
2006	82	76	78	91	78	92	88	67	78
2007	71	66	60	91	70	90	62	67	58
2008	59	66	55	77	63	58	50	24	57
2009	54	49	54	72	52	53	44	64	47
2010	56	50	70	72	48	57	45	63	51
2011	60	49	51	75	52	67	64	91	60
2012	61	42	73	84	64	48	47	75	76
2013	50	36	65	71	57	46	31	46	48
2014	**47**	**32**	**51**	**68**	**64**	**32**	**31**	**47**	**47**

Source: EDRS participant interviews
* includes speed, base and ice/crystal

Table 19. Reported use of speed powder in the preceding six months, 2003-2014

%	National	NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
2003	73	79	64	89	67	65	83	81	57
2004	68	81	64	92	68	62	78	72	42
2005	74	76	70	85	77	66	85	73	57
2006	64	55	66	91	62	51	65	59	58
2007	57	45	53	90	65	53	46	55	46
2008	46	48	42	75	59	30	38	24	34
2009	45	37	44	72	46	30	37	61	41
2010	47	29	66	70	40	38	38	59	47
2011	49	32	50	69	47	45	44	91	49
2012	48	31	63	77	61	24	27	58	58
2013	37	25	57	58	53	21	17	34	41
2014	**36**	**21**	**48**	**56**	**58**	**13**	**19**	**39**	**34**

Source: EDRS participant interviews

Table 20. Reported use of base methamphetamine in the preceding six months, 2003-2014

%	National	NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
2003	36	42	24	28	24	70	32	32	34
2004	39	39	31	34	20	72	31	45	39
2005	38	43	27	21	23	82	38	29	45
2006	34	24	34	12	40	63	32	18	38
2007	26	23	18	16	30	64	10	27	18
2008	18	17	23	7	16	34	5	9	26
2009	15	23	13	7	14	21	3	28	17
2010	13	18	14	3	9	28	4	30	14
2011	16	16	10	12	8	24	11	18	26
2012	15	9	28	13	16	24	1	8	19
2013	6	4	5	8	7	11	0	2	9
2014	**8**	**6**	**5**	**10**	**17**	**10**	**0**	**5**	**8**

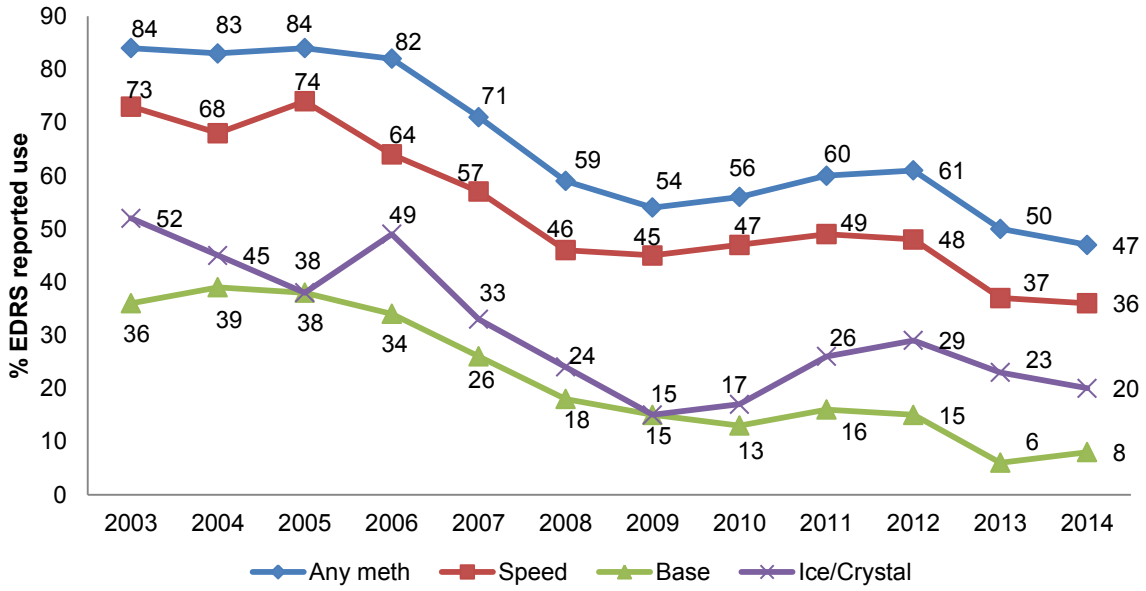
Source: EDRS participant interviews

Table 21. Reported use of ice/crystal methamphetamine in the preceding six months, 2003-2014

%	National	NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
2003	52	48	56	64	52	48	77	40	38
2004	45	46	39	52	16	47	80	35	42
2005	38	40	26	42	10	41	69	32	50
2006	49	56	37	49	27	62	77	26	50
2007	33	42	20	39	7	49	52	24	23
2008	24	33	24	22	15	34	36	0	26
2009	15	9	8	13	7	32	20	15	17
2010	17	21	16	18	4	26	22	22	8
2011	26	19	9	38	5	43	46	27	32
2012	29	18	26	48	10	32	33	25	40
2013	23	11	14	45	17	28	22	21	21
2014	**20**	**13**	**8**	**34**	**14**	**20**	**17**	**27**	**26**

Source: EDRS participant interviews

Figure 4: Recent use of methamphetamine (all forms), nationally, 2003-2014



Source: EDRS participant interviews

Table 22. Median days of methamphetamine use in the preceding six months, 2014*

Median days	National		NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
	2013	**2014**								
Speed	3	**3**	2	4.5	4	3	3	1	3	5
Base	2	**5**	4.5	1	2	8	5	-	3	8
Ice/crystal	4	**6**	10	8	8	3.5	5.5	3	5	12
Any form**	4	**4**	4	6	6	3	3	2	4	6

Source: EDRS participant interviews
* Among those who had used. Maximum number of days, i.e. daily use = 180.
** Includes speed powder, base and ice/crystal forms.

Table 23. Current availability of methamphetamine, 2014

%	National		NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
	2013	**2014**								
Speed %	(N=135)	**(N=149)**	(n=11)	(n=22)	(n=26)	(n=41)	(n=7^)	(n=6^)	(n=22)	(n=14)
Very easy	36	**31**	27	14	42	39	14	67	23	21
Easy	42	**42**	36	73	31	29	57	33	41	57
Difficult	19	**23**	18	14	27	24	14	0	36	21
Very difficult	4	**4**	18	0	0	7	14	0	0	0
Base %	(N=19)	**(N=36)**	(n=4^)	(n=2^)	(n=2^)	(n=11)	(n=5^)	(n=0)	(n=5^)	(n=7^)
Very easy	53	**19**	0	0	0	46	20	-	20	0
Easy	42	**53**	50	100	50	36	80	-	60	43
Difficult	5	**22**	25	0	50	18	0	-	20	43
Very difficult	0	**6**	25	0	0	0	0	-	0	14
Ice/crystal %	(N=105)	**(N=112)**	(n=9^)	(n=5^)	(n=23)	(n=11)	(n=17)	(n=12)	(n=18)	(n=17)
Very easy	56	**52**	44	0	65	46	65	50	56	41
Easy	32	**34**	33	40	35	18	35	42	17	53
Difficult	11	**12**	22	60	0	18	0	8	28	0
Very difficult	1	**3**	0	0	0	18	0	0	0	6

Source: EDRS participant interviews
^ Small numbers reported; interpret with caution (n<10)
Note: The response 'don't know' was excluded from analysis

Table 24. Current purity of methamphetamine, 2014

%	National		NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
	2013	**2014**								
Speed %	(N=128)	**(N=146)**	(n=12)	(n=21)	(n=27)	(n=38)	(n=6^)	(n=7^)	(n=22)	(n=13)
Low	20	**17**	8	33	22	11	0	29	18	8
Medium	36	**40**	25	43	44	40	50	29	27	69
High	37	**30**	50	14	26	29	50	43	36	23
Fluctuates	7	**12**	17	10	7	21	0	0	18	0
Base %	(N=16)	**(N=37)**	(n=5^)	(n=2^)	(n=2^)	(n=11)	(n=6^)	(n=0)	(n=5^)	(n=6^)
Low	0	**16**	20	50	0	7	17	-	0	33
Medium	25	**27**	20	0	50	7	50	-	40	33
High	69	**43**	40	0	50	82	17	-	40	17
Fluctuates	6	**14**	20	50	0	0	17	-	20	17
Ice/crystal %	(N=103)	**(N=110)**	(n=9^)	(n=4^)	(n=24)	(n=12)	(n=16)	(n=11)	(n=17)	(n=17)
Low	7	**7**	22	25	4	0	0	9	6	12
Medium	32	**29**	11	50	38	17	19	46	35	24
High	46	**49**	22	25	46	75	75	27	47	47
Fluctuates	16	**15**	44	0	13	8	6	18	12	18

Source: EDRS participant interviews
^ Small numbers reported; interpret with caution (n<10)
Note: The response 'don't know' was excluded from analysis

Table 25. Median price last methamphetamine purchase, 2013-2014

	Median price $ per point						Median price $ per gram					
$	**Speed powder**		**Base**		**Ice/crystal**		**Speed powder**		**Base**		**Ice/crystal**	
	2013	**2014**	2013	**2014**	2013	**2014**	2013	**2014**	2013	**2014**	2013	**2014**
National	30	**50^**	80	**60**	100	**100**	200	**250**	300	**200^**	625	**500**
NSW	50^	**50**	-	**-**	50^	**50^**	150^	**150^**	70^	**100^**	400^	**450^**
ACT	25^	**35^**	-	**30^**	80^	**100^**	200	**225**	225^	**120^**	725^	**375^**
VIC	30	**20**	80^	**20^**	80	**70**	200	**200**	400^	**200^**	600	**550**
TAS	50	**42.50^**	-	**30^**	100^	**100^**	300	**300**	210^	**300^**	-	**500^**
SA	100^	**50^**	90^	**100^**	100	**90**	280^	**-**	-	**-**	450^	**450^**
WA	100^	**100^**	-	**-**	100	**100**	700^	**200^**	-	**-**	800^	**800^**
NT	-	**100^**	-	**150^**	200^	**150**	300^	**350**	-	**200^**	300^	**850**
QLD	65^	**55^**	-	**60^**	100^	**100**	200^	**650^**	800^	**-**	800^	**650^**

Source: EDRS participant interviews
^ Small numbers reported; interpret with caution (n<10)

Cocaine

Cocaine use among EDRS participants

Table 26. Reported cocaine use in preceding six months, 2003-2014

%	National	NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
2003	23	46	26	35	7	37	17	5	18
2004	27	46	34	48	10	26	16	16	21
2005	41	55	44	63	20	49	35	11	41
2006	37	45	44	55	33	31	29	10	36
2007	40	62	46	54	35	36	27	9	41
2008	36	51	45	51	35	20	40	2	30
2009	39	64	44	48	31	20	24	23	55
2010	48	59	58	54	49	42	26	52	51
2011	46	59	43	43	39	45	32	27	52
2012	40	57	37	54	26	37	31	17	34
2013	36	42	38	46	17	35	34	34	40
2014	**44 ↑**	**67**	**51**	**58**	**22**	**45**	**30**	**39**	**42**

Source: EDRS participant interviews

Table 27. Median days used cocaine in the last six months, 2003-2014*

Median	National	NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
2003	2	2	1	3	2^	2	2	6	4.5
2004	2	3	2	1.5	2	2	1	1	2
2005	2	2.5	3	2	1	2	2	3	3
2006	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	2
2007	3	4	2.5	2	2	3	2	2	2
2008	3	5	4	3	2	2	3	-	2.5
2009	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
2010	3	5	3	2	3	2	2	2	2
2011	2	4	3.5	2.5	1	2	1.5	2	2
2012	3	3	4	3	2	2	2	2.5	4
2013	2	2	2	2	3	2	1	4	2
2014	**2**	**3**	**6**	**3**	**2**	**2**	**2**	**2**	**2**

Source: EDRS participant interviews
* Among those who had used in the last 6 months. Maximum number of days, i.e. daily use = 180. See page 2 for guide

Table 28. Current availability and purity of cocaine, 2014

%	National		NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
	2013	**2014**								
Current availability %	N=140	**N=208**	n=44	n=37	n=26	n=14	n=34	n=19	n=14	n=20
Very easy	17	**17**	30	32	12	7	9	5	14	5
Easy	41	**40**	55	32	42	14	50	32	7	50
Difficult	35	**37**	14	32	46	50	38	58	64	35
Very difficult	7	**6**	2	4	0	29	3	5	14	10
Current purity %	N=127	**N=202**	n=38	n=37	n=26	n=13	n=34	n=19	n=14	n=21
Low	25	**26**	26	19	19	23	29	37	21	38
Medium	44	**37**	32	43	39	31	35	37	50	29
High	26	**23**	21	19	19	46	24	16	29	29
Fluctuates	5	**14**	21	19	23	0	12	11	0	5

Source: EDRS participant interviews

Table 29. Median price of last cocaine purchase per gram, 2006-2014

$	National	NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
2006	300	300	300	300	310	300^	350	275^	300
2007	300	300	300	300	320	337.50	400	350^	300
2008	300	300	300	300	350	375	325^	450^	300
2009	300	300	300	300	300^	350^	375^	325^	300
2010	300	300	300	300	350	350	365^	400^	300
2011	300	300	300	300	300	375	350^	350^	350
2012	300	300	300^	350	300^	350	325	-	300
2013	300	300	300	300	300^	325	400	350^	300^
2014	**300**	**300**	**300**	**300**	**350^**	**300**	**400**	**350**	**300**

Source: EDRS participant interviews
^ Small numbers reported; interpret with caution (n<10)

KETAMINE

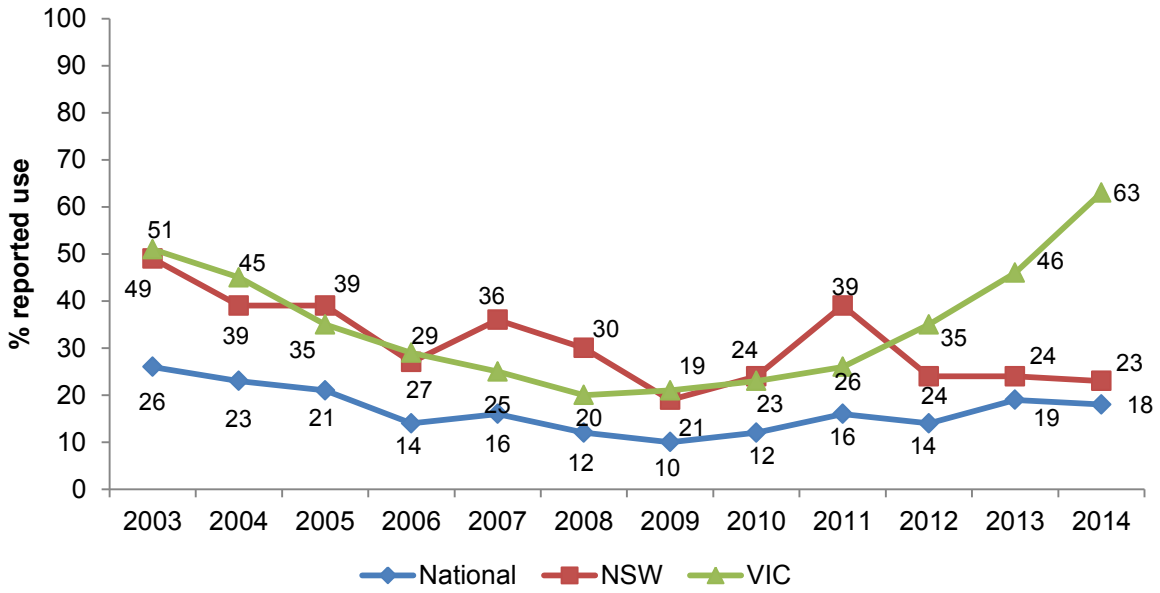
Ketamine use among EDRS participants

Table 30. Reported use of ketamine in the preceding six months, 2003-2014

%	National	NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
2003	26	49	21	51	24	36	12	7	14
2004	23	39	15	45	5	39	10	18	16
2005	21	39	17	35	11	24	11	7	20
2006	14	27	15	29	6	11	4	6	12
2007	16	36	10	25	14	26	2	8	1
2008	12	30	6	20	6	20	3	0	4
2009	10	19	2	21	5	19	6	0	6
2010	12	24	6	23	6	13	4	7	8
2011	16	39	14	26	8	8	0	0	4
2012	14	24	14	35	4	10	3	8	7
2013	19	24	33	46	9	6	7	9	13
2014	**18**	**23**	**6**	**63**	**14**	**4**	**11**	**15**	**5**

Source: EDRS participant interviews

Figure 5: Recent ketamine use, 2003-2014



Source: EDRS participant interviews

Table 31. Median days used ketamine in the preceding six months, 2003-2014*

Median	National	NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
2003	2	3	2	3.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	1	2
2004	3	4	2	3	2	3	1	2	2
2005	2	2	2	3	3	2	2	1	2.5
2006	2	2	2	3	2	2	2	6	1
2007	2	2	2	1	1	3	2.5	1	4
2008	2	3	1	3	1	3	2.5	-	1.5
2009	2	2	5	2	2	2	1	-	1
2010	2	3	1.5	2	1	3	2	3	1
2011	2	2	1	4	2.5^	2^	-	-	1^
2012	2	3	1	2	2	2	5	1	1
2013	2	2	2	4	2^	1^	2^	1^	1^
2014	**2**	**2**	**1.5^**	**3**	**2**	**1^**	**1**	**3**	**2^**

Source: EDRS participant interviews
* Among those who had used in the last 6 months. Maximum number of days, i.e. daily use = 180. See page 2 for guide
^ Small numbers reported (n<10) interpret with caution

Table 32. Current availability and purity of ketamine, 2014

%	National		NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
	2013	**2014**								
Current availability %	(N=57)	**(N=58)**	(n=6^)	(n=3^)	(n=35)	(n=5^)	(n=1^)	(n=4^)	(n=3^)	(n=1^)
Very easy	32	**12**	17	0	9	20	0	25	33	0
Easy	37	**36**	50	33	43	0	0	0	33	100
Difficult	30	**35**	33	67	31	60	0	25	33	0
Very difficult	4	**17**	0	0	17	20	100	50	0	0
Current purity %	(N=54)	**(N=55)**	(n=4^)	(n=1^)	(n=35)	(n=5^)	(n=2^)	(n=4^)	(n=3^)	(n=1^)
Low	17	**7**	0	0	9	0	50	0	0	0
Medium	15	**29**	50	0	34	0	0	25	0	100
High	61	**58**	50	100	51	100	50	50	100	0
Fluctuates	7	**6**	0	0	6	0	0	25	0	0

Source: EDRS participant interviews
^ Small numbers reported; interpret with caution (n<10)

Table 33. Median price of last ketamine purchase per gram, 2006-2014

$	National	NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
2006	135^	175^	40^	100^	180^	300^	160^	50^	180^
2007	180	150	172.5^	200^	300^	200	-	-	-
2008	155	150	-	200	300^	225^	-	-	-
2009	200	150^	-	200^	300^	200^	-	400^	200^
2010	160	150^	170^	220^	-	125^	250^	350^	150^
2011	170	150	170^	200	-	250^	-	-	150^
2012	180	150^	-	200^	200^	57.50^	-	-	-
2013	180	200^	80^	200	180^	100^	47.5^	350^	165^
2014	**200**	**180^**	**600^**	**200**	**240^**	**-**	**200^**	**250^**	**250^**

Source: EDRS participant interviews
^ Small numbers reported (n<10) interpret with caution

GHB

GHB use among EDRS participants

Table 34. Reported use GHB in preceding six months, 2003-2014

%	National	NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
2003	11	21	12	18	6	12	8	4	6
2004	10	18	6	27	3	12	5	6	6
2005	9	13	6	16	2	18	3	4	13
2006	8	21	7	14	3	7	2	0	9
2007	7	23	5	10	1	11	0	0	3
2008	7	24	2	11	1	4	2	0	5
2009	4	6	1	10	3	2	2	0	3
2010	6	17	3	12	2	8	0	0	2
2011	7	16	9	6	3	5	0	0	7
2012	7	11	6	7	2	12	1	0	10
2013	6	11	0	14	0	5	3	2	6
2014	**5**	**12**	**3**	**13**	**0**	**3**	**3**	**2**	**3**

Source: EDRS participant interviews

Table 35. Median days used GHB in the last six months, 2003-2014*

Median	National	NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
2003	2	2	3	4	1	2	2	8	1
2004	2	2	1	3	1	1	1	3	3
2005	2	2	2	10	2	2	1	2	2
2006	2	3	1	2.5	2	2	3	-	1
2007	4	6	3.5	2	6	3	-	-	4
2008	2	2.5	2.5	3	1	1	1	-	1
2009	2	4	1	2.5	1	2	2	-	2
2010	2	3	1	2	1	1	-	-	49.50
2011	2	2	1^	6.5^	1.5^	9^	-	-	1^
2012	2	2	2	6	1	1	1	-	1.5
2013	2	3	-	2	-	1^	2^	5^	1^
2014	**2**	**1.5**	**1^**	**10**	**-**	**12^**	**2^**	**11^**	**1^**

Source: EDRS participant interviews
* Among those who had used in the last 6 months. Maximum number of days, i.e. daily use = 180. See page 2 for guide
^ Small numbers reported (n<10) interpret with caution

Table 36. Current availability and purity of GHB, 2014

%	National		NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
	2013	**2014**								
Current availability %	(N=20)	**(N=20)**	(n=4^)	(n=3^)	(n=7^)	(n=0)	(n=3^)	(n=2^)	(n=0)	(n=1^)
Very easy	30	**5**	0	0	14	-	0	0	-	0
Easy	45	**40**	25	33	57	-	33	50	-	0
Difficult	25	**45**	75	33	14	-	67	50	-	100
Very difficult	0	**10**	0	33	14	-	0	0	-	0
Current purity %	(N=17)	**(N=18)**	(n=2^)	(n=3^)	(n=7^)	(n=0)	(n=3^)	(n=2^)	(n=0)	(n=1^)
Low	18	**0**	0	0	0	-	0	0	-	0
Medium	41	**11**	0	0	14	-	33	0	-	0
High	35	**72**	100	100	71	-	33	50	-	100
Fluctuates	6	**17**	0	0	0	-	33	50	-	0

Source: EDRS participant interviews
^ Small numbers reported; interpret with caution (n<10)
GHB price data not presented given the small numbers commenting across all jurisdictions.

LSD

LSD use among EDRS participants

Table 37. Reported use of LSD in preceding six months, 2003-2014

%	National	NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
2003	28	27	44	48	24	30	22	25	18
2004	26	20	23	40	32	36	11	31	18
2005	32	33	30	38	31	48	35	15	23
2006	29	17	18	37	29	34	25	41	38
2007	28	22	24	39	20	33	23	33	28
2008	30	18	37	29	41	35	21	16	32
2009	34	37	35	46	34	37	31	11	30
2010	38	44	41	49	27	35	35	26	38
2011	46	46	39	57	43	30	36	60	52
2012	34	43	38	38	30	19	33	42	34
2013	43	51	53	52	38	25	41	40	41
2014	**41**	**43**	**19**	**49**	**35**	**35**	**45**	**43**	**57**

Source: EDRS participant interviews

Table 38. Median days used LSD in the last six months, 2003-2014*

Median	National	NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
2003	2	1	2	2	1	3	1	2	2
2004	2	1	1	2	2.5	2	1	1	2
2005	2	2	2	3	1	3	2	2	1.5
2006	2	2	1.5	3	2	3	2	2	1.5
2007	2	2.5	2	2	2	3	2	3	3
2008	2	2	4	2	2	3	5	1.5	1
2009	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3^	2
2010	3	3	3	3	2.5	3.5	2	1	3
2011	3	2	3.5	4	3.5	2	3.5	7.5^	2
2012	3	3	5	3	3	2	2	3	2
2013	3	2	4	3	2	2	4	2	2
2014	**2**	**2**	**4**	**3**	**2**	**2**	**2**	**3**	**2**

Source: EDRS participant interviews
* Among those who had used. Maximum number of days, i.e. daily use = 180. See page 2 for guide.
^ Small numbers reported; interpret with caution (n<10)

Table 39. Current availability and purity of LSD, 2014

%	National		NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
	2013	**2014**								
Current availability %	(N=247)	**(N=254)**	(n=40)	(n=16)	(n=34)	(n=32)	(n=30)	(n=39)	(n=22)	(n=41)
Very easy	27	**26**	20	25	32	34	20	15	41	27
Easy	40	**40**	40	44	44	56	27	39	18	46
Difficult	28	**29**	33	25	24	6	50	44	27	20
Very difficult	5	**5**	8	6	0	3	3	3	14	7
Current purity %	(N=238)	**(N=244)**	(n=34)	(n=16)	(n=33)	(n=33)	(n=30)	(n=36)	(n=23)	(n=39)
Low	13	**4**	3	0	0	9	3	3	9	5
Medium	33	**30**	21	31	21	39	37	28	17	41
High	40	**55 ↑**	65	50	64	46	50	44	65	54
Fluctuates	14	**12**	12	19	15	6	10	25	9	0

Source: EDRS participant interviews

Table 40. Median price of last LSD purchase per tablet, 2006-2014

$	National	NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
2006	17.50	20	20	12	20	10	20	20	20
2007	20	15	15	20	15	20	25	25	20
2008	20	15	20	15	20	12.5	25^	20^	20
2009	15	20	25	19	20	15	25	25^	20
2010	20	20	20	10	25	10	25	25	20
2011	20	20	20	15	20	15	25	27.5	20
2012	20	20	22.5	15	20	15	20	20	20
2013	20	20	20	15	20	15	25	32.50^	22.50
2014	**20**	**25**	**20**	**15**	**20**	**15**	**25**	**25**	**20**

Source: EDRS participant interviews
^ Small numbers reported; interpret with caution (n<10)

CANNABIS

Cannabis use amongst EDRS participants

Table 41. Recent cannabis use in the preceding six months, 2006-2014

%	National	NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
2006	83	73	83	79	82	83	85	84	92
2007	81	74	85	82	68	80	80	96	87
2008	76	71	86	84	74	74	85	40	81
2009	82	83	89	85	76	86	85	60	84
2010	80	78	89	89	72	84	81	70	72
2011	85	83	89	86	67	92	86	73	93
2012	82	86	92	85	69	88	77	83	81
2013	86	90	87	87	78	85	92	73	84
2014	**83**	**85**	**74**	**81**	**76**	**87**	**86**	**84**	**87**

Source: EDRS participant interviews

Table 42. Median days used cannabis, 2006-2014*

Median	National	NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
2006	48	24	50	48	25	70	48	90	52
2007	40	48	48	24	11	98	48	15	24
2008	24	24	60	33	15	48	15	6	24
2009	29	26	35	24	15	96	48	37	38
2010	24	49	24	30	12	60	20	24	24
2011	48	48	48	48	24	50	155	60^	50
2012	60	48	120	72	120	48	48	27	48
2013	48	40	90	50	48	48	26.5	24	48
2014	**32**	**30**	**60**	**24**	**50**	**48**	**27.5**	**30**	**48**

Source: EDRS participant interviews
* Among those who had used in the last 6 months. Maximum number of days, i.e. daily use = 180. See page 2 for guide.
^ Small numbers reported; interpret with caution (n<10)

Table 43. Current availability and purity of cannabis, 2014

%	National		NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
	2013	**2014**								
Current availability %										
Hydro	(N=347)	**(N=359)**	(n=49)	(n=42)	(n=27)	(n=52)	(n=58)	(n=50)	(n=39)	(n=42)
Very easy	60	**57**	67	55	52	64	52	46	72	52
Easy	30	**35**	27	38	30	33	40	46	21	38
Difficult	9	**7**	4	7	19	4	9	8	5	5
Very difficult	<1	**1**	2	0	0	0	0	0	3	5
Bush	(N=280)	**(N=310)**	(n=37)	(n=39)	(n=20)	(n=49)	(n=54)	(n=43)	(n=35)	(n=33)
Very easy	46	**41**	24	46	45	59	32	42	49	30
Easy	35	**38**	30	36	45	35	41	37	43	46
Difficult	18	**17**	35	15	10	6	22	19	9	15
Very difficult	1	**4**	11	3	0	0	6	2	0	9
Current potency %										
Hydro	(N=346)	**(N=352)**	(n=44)	(n=44)	(n=26)	(n=50)	(n=56)	(n=50)	(n=40)	(n=42)
High	50	**51**	30	52	46	76	48	56	58	41
Medium	34	**31**	41	25	35	12	41	24	25	45
Low	4	**5**	7	11	8	4	0	2	5	2
Fluctuates	12	**13**	23	11	12	8	11	18	13	12
Bush	(N=279)	**(N=310)**	(n=35)	(n=40)	(n=20)	(n=49)	(n=54)	(n=45)	(n=34)	(n=33)
High	27	**21**	17	33	10	18	37	11	9	24
Medium	52	**49**	54	33	60	55	48	49	38	61
Low	16	**18**	17	25	20	16	6	20	44	6
Fluctuates	5	**11**	11	10	10	10	9	20	9	9

Source: EDRS participant interviews
Note: The response 'don't know' was excluded from analysis

Table 44. Median price of last cannabis purchase, 2013-2014

	Median price $ per gram				Median price $ per ounce			
	Hydro		Bush		Hydro		Bush	
	2013	**2014**	2013	**2014**	2013	**2014**	2013	**2014**
National	20	**20**	15	**20**	280	**300**	250	**250**
NSW	20	**20**	20	**20**	300	**300**	300	**280**
ACT	20^	**20**	15^	**17.5**	280	**280**	280	**280**
VIC	15	**15**	12	**15**	250	**230**	200^	**220**
TAS	10^	**20**	20^	**15^**	280	**300**	200	**225**
SA	10^	**10^**	10^	**10^**	220	**220**	220	**220**
WA	25^	**25**	25^	**25**	350	**350**	300	**350**
NT	40^	**30**	30^	**30**	320^	**450**	200^	**400**
QLD	25^	**11^**	10^	**15^**	267.5	**280**	235	**275^**

Source: EDRS participant interviews
^ Small numbers reported; interpret with caution (n<10)

OTHER DRUG USE

Table 45. Use of other drugs in the six months prior to interview, 2014

%	National 2013 (N=686)	National 2014 (N=800)	NSW (n=100)	ACT (n=100)	VIC (n=100)	TAS (n=100)	SA (n=100)	WA (n=100)	NT (n=100)	QLD (n=100)
Alcohol	97	**98**	100	95	99	97	100	98	96	97
Tobacco	77	**77**	80	76	83	82	82	77	68	71
Pharmaceutical stimulants#	33	**28**	24	11	32	18	22	81	13	22
Amyl nitrate	17	**17**	46	17	34	12	7	4	6	6
Nitrous oxide	25	**23**	26	15	53	17	8	32	10	26
Heroin	4	**2**	2	3	6	2	2	0	1	3
Methadone#	2	**1**	0	0	1	3	1	2	0	2
Buprenorphine#	1	**1**	1	0	1	2	3	0	0	2
Other opiates#	14	**14**	12	9	27	15	11	8	3	25
Antidepressants#	11	**8**	8	9	7	5	6	6	7	16
Benzodiazepines#	32	**34**	35	13	59	40	22	35	17	49
Mushrooms	27	**21 ↓**	21	17	25	21	22	25	11	25
MDA	12	**12**	12	10	21	6	3	13	13	17
Steroids	<1	**2**	2	0	2	0	3	1	4	3

Source: EDRS participant interviews
Including licit and illicit use

INJECTING RISK BEHAVIOUR

Table 46. Injecting risk behaviour, 2014

	National 2013 (N=686)	National 2014 (N=800)	NSW (n=100)	ACT (n=100)	VIC (n=100)	TAS (n=100)	SA (n=100)	WA (n=100)	NT (n=100)	QLD (n=100)
% Ever injected a drug	13	**10**	11	4	10	15	5	2	4	25
Median age first injected (range)	19 (12-45)	**20 (14-41)**	19 (15-41)	18 (14-22)	24 (16-31)	20 (15-30)	19 (16-25)	16.5 (14-19)	18 (16-21)	20 (14-35)
% Injected last 6 months	7									
Last drug injected (of those that have injected in the last 6 months)	(N=47)	**(N=43)**	(n=5^)	(n=0)	(n=4^)	(n=8^)	(n=4^)	(n=1^)	(n=2^)	(n=19)
% Ice/crystal	30	**28**	20	-	50	25	0	0	50	32
% Speed	36	**16**	20	-	25	0	25	0	0	21
% Other opiates	2	**5**	20	-	0	13	0	0	0	0
% Steroids	9	**16**	0	-	0	0	50	100	50	16
% Base	-	**9**	0	-	0	25	25	0	0	5
% Heroin	21	**7**	20	-	25	0	0	0	0	5
% Cocaine	2	**2**	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	5
%Benzodiazepines	-	**7**	0	-	0	38	0	0	0	0
% Other	-	**9**	20	-	0	0	0	0	0	16
Of those who had injected in the last 6 months										
% Used a needle after somebody else in the last month	11	**8**	0	-	25	13	0	100	0	10
% Injected under influence and/or while coming down	43	**28**	0	-	0	63	25	100	50	21
Location of last injection										
% Home	64	**51**	60	-	50	13	100	100	0	58
% Friends home	28	**26**	0	-	50	38	0	0	50	26
% Dealers home	2	**5**	0	-	0	13	0	0	0	5
% Public area (including toilet/stairwell)	2	**12**	20	-	0	38	0	0	50	0
% Other	4	**7**	20	-	0	0	0	0	0	11

Source: EDRS participant interviews
^ Small numbers reported; interpret with caution (n<10)

Drug Related Harm

Overdose

Table 47. Reported lifetime and/or recent overdose, 2014

	National 2013 (N=686)	National 2014 (N=800)	NSW (n=100)	ACT (n=100)	VIC (n=100)	TAS (n=100)	SA (n=100)	WA (n=100)	NT (n=100)	QLD (n=99)
% Lifetime Stimulant Overdose	30	**28**	35	26	20	26	35	34	18	27
Recent* stimulant overdose, main drug attributed to	(N=123)	**(N=146)**	(n=26)	(n=17)	(n=11)	(n=12)	(n=28)	(n=26)	(n=12)	(n=14)
% Ecstasy	50	**57**	69	77	18	50	43	65	67	50
% Ice/crystal	7	**9**	8	0	27	17	11	4	11	7
% Speed	6	**4**	4	6	18	0	4	0	0	0
% Pharmaceutical stimulants	7	**3**	0	6	0	0	0	12	0	0
% LSD	4	**7**	4	6	9	8	4	0	11	29
% Cocaine	7	**4**	8	0	9	0	0	8	0	0
% MDA	2	**1**	0	0	9	1	0	0	0	7
% PMA	2	**1**	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0
% Other stimulant drug	16	**15**	8	6	9	25	32	12	11	7
Median hours partying before stimulant OD (range)	5 (0-96)	**6 (0-336)**	5 (1-48)	12 (2-96)	8 (1-96)	11 (1-336)	7 (1-92)	5 (0-96)	12 (3-48)	6 (0-48)
% Lifetime Depressant Overdose	23	**25**	34	24	30	29	37	11	8	25
Recent* depressant overdose, main drug attributed to	(N=89)	**(N=93)**	(n=20)	(n=15)	(n=14)	(n=17)	(n=20)	(n=6^)	(n=5^)	(n=9^)
Alcohol	80	**74**	90	53	64	71	80	67	100	79
GHB	6	**3**	5	7	7	0	5	0	0	0
Heroin	2	**3**	0	7	0	6	0	0	0	11
Benzodiazepines	3	**4**	5	7	7	6	0	6	0	0
Other depressant drug	9	**15**	0	27	21	18	15	33	0	11
Median hours partying before depress OD (range)	6 (1-72)	**5 (1-120)**	6 (1-120)	4 (2-30)	3 (0-12)	6 (3-16)	5 (0-14)	4 (0-24)	6 (4-8)	4 (1-8)

Source: EDRS participant interviews
^ Small numbers reported; interpret with caution (n<10)
* Most recent overdose in the last 12 months

Sexual risk behaviour

Table 48. Sexual risk behaviour in the last six months, 2014

%	National 2013 (N=686)	National 2014 (N=800)	NSW (n=100)	ACT (n=100)	VIC (n=100)	TAS (n=100)	SA (n=100)	WA (n=100)	NT (n=100)	QLD (n=100)
	2013	**2014**								
No. casual sexual partners %	(N=681)	**(N=760)**	(n=97)	(n=80)	(n=98)	(n=98)	(n=100)	(n=100)	(n=99)	(n=88)
No casual partner	38	**36**	46	28	42	38	41	34	28	32
1 person	18	**16**	14	28	12	12	14	19	9	18
2 people	16	**16**	19	16	13	15	8	23	14	18
3-5 people	19	**20**	11	19	21	21	23	14	30	21
6-10 people	8	**8**	7	4	8	8	10	8	10	9
10 or more	2	**4**	2	6	3	5	4	2	8	2
Penetrative sex with casual partner while on drugs* %	(N=426) 90	**(N=484) 88**	(n=53) 85	(n=58) 79	(n=57) 91	(n=61) 93	(n=59) 86	(n=65) 89	(n=71) 85	(n=60) 92
Drug used last time %	(N=380)	**(N=422)**	(n=45)	(n=46)	(n=52)	(n=57)	(n=51)	(n=58)	(n=59)	(n=54)
Alcohol	50	**83**	78	94	77	98	75	86	75	82
Ecstasy	61	**50**	44	65	52	65	43	43	44	46
Cannabis	39	**32**	24	44	21	35	31	36	32	32
Ice/Crystal	8	**9**	7	7	8	2	10	7	17	11
Speed	8	**9**	9	11	10	19	0	2	9	9
Cocaine	9	**10**	18	15	8	4	8	5	5	19
LSD	7	**5**	0	2	4	0	0	7	9	13
Benzodiazepine	1	**2**	2	0	6	4	0	3	0	4
Other drugs	14	**3**	11	2	2	9	0	5	0	2
Reason for not using protection last time had sex with casual partner under influence %:	(N=179)	**(N=196)**	(n=17)	(n=20)	(n=27)	(n=30)	(n=28)	(n=25)	(n=27)	(n=22)
Using the contraceptive pill	29	**28**	18	35	22	33	21	32	33	23
It wasn't mentioned	18	**21**	24	20	15	23	11	28	26	23
We agreed not to	10	**20**	24	10	41	7	25	16	19	23
I didn't wish to use	13	**10**	12	20	4	13	11	4	11	9
We were too intoxicated	6	**9**	24	10	11	13	4	4	4	5
Lack of availability	11	**5**	0	5	4	7	14	4	0	0
My partner did not wish to use	2	**2**	0	0	4	0	4	0	4	5
Other	11	**6**	0	0	0	3	11	12	4	14
Sexual health check-up in past year %	(N=639) 45	**(N=754) 49**	(n=97) 45	(n=79) 58	(n=98) 50	(n=98) 38	(n=99) 39	(n=100) 43	(n=99) 62	(n=84) 56
STI diagnosis in the past year %☞	(N=33)	**(N=41)**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chlamydia	70	**63**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gonorrhoea	3	**17**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
HPV (genital warts)	12	**12**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Syphilis	0	**0**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other	18	**10**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Source: EDRS participant interviews
* of those who had a casual partner (N=484)
☞note: numbers are too small to report across jurisdictions to protect anonymity and confidentiality of participants

CRIMINAL AND POLICE ACTIVITY

Table 49. Reported criminal activity, 2014

%	National 2013 (N=686)	National 2014 (N=800)	NSW (n=100)	ACT (n=100)	VIC (n=100)	TAS (n=100)	SA (n=100)	WA (n=100)	NT (n=100)	QLD (n=100)
Crime in the last month %										
Drug dealing	**21**	**26**	29	15	28	24	29	33	19	30
Property	**17**	**14**	12	7	25	28	19	11	10	3
Fraud	**3**	**3**	4	2	1	5	1	5	0	3
Violence	**3**	**4**	2	5	3	2	3	5	9	4
Any crime	**34**	**37**	37	24	47	42	43	40	30	33
Arrested last 12 months %	**11**	**12**	11	10	10	13	5	12	18	19
Charges for past year arrest☞: %	**(N=77)**	**(N=97)**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Public order (Drunk & disorderly)	**27**	**23**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Violent crime	**14**	**17**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Driving under the influence alcohol	**17**	**17**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Property crime	**23**	**17**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Use/possession drugs	**13**	**25**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dealing/traffickin g	**4**	**3**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other charges	**18**	**38**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lifetime prison history %	**3**	**4**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Source: EDRS participant interviews
☞note: numbers are too small to report across jurisdictions to protect anonymity and confidentiality of participants

MENTAL HEALTH

Table 50. Self-reported mental health issues, 2014

%	National		NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
	2013 (N= 686)	2014 (N=800)	(n=100)	(n=100)	(n=100)	(n=100)	(n=100)	(n=100)	(n=100)	(n=100)
Had a mental health problem # %	30	**28**	29	18	35	33	25	29	20	31
Depression*	67	**65**	69	78	62	61	64	62	70	63
Anxiety*	63	**70**	76	56	68	70	80	72	60	70
Mania*	2	**<1**	0	0	0	3	4	0	0	0
Panic*	10	**7**	0	0	12	6	8	7	0	17
Paranoia*	13	**9**	7	0	0	21	12	21	0	7
Obsessive Compulsive Disorder*	6	**6**	3	11	6	3	0	3	5	13
Bipolar*	8	**5**	0	11	3	0	16	3	0	7
Drug-induced psychosis*	2	**2**	0	0	3	3	4	3	0	3
Posttraumatic stress disorder*	9	**4**	0	6	0	9	4	7	0	3
Phobias*	3	**4**	3	0	0	6	12	3	0	3
Other*	11	**12**	28	0	6	11	4	7	15	17
Attended a mental health professional %	17	**15**	16	7	22	14	11	10	14	23

Source: EDRS participant interviews
In the last six months
* Among those who reported a mental health issue

Drug Trends Conference Poster session 2014

New South Wales

*'*Crystal MDMA: A Unique Addition to Australian Drug Markets' (EDRS) by Gavin Entwistle, Celine Hendriks and A/Prof Lucy Burns, NDARC

*'*An overview of Oxycodone reformulation in NSW ' (IDRS) by David Mckell and A/Prof Lucy Burns, NDARC

Australian Capital Territory

'Black, white, or shades of grey? Illicit opioid use and methamphetamine use in the ACT - findings from the 2014 Illicit Drug Reporting System (IDRS)' by Kerryn Butler and A/Prof Lucy Burns, NDARC

Victoria

'What can the IDRS and EDRS tell us about the so-called 'ice epidemic' in Victoria? Cross-sectional trends in methamphetamine (MA) use among people who regularly use drugs in Melbourne, 2008–2014' by Shelley Cogger, Arthur Truong and Prof Paul Dietze

Tasmania

'Impact of scheduling restrictions on non-prescribed alprazolam use among people who frequently inject drugs' (IDRS) by Barbara de Graaff and A/Prof Raimondo Bruno, UTAS

South Australia

'E-cigarettes: Holy Smoke!' Rachel Sutherland and A/Prof Lucy Burns, NDARC

Western Australia

'Trends in ecstasy and pharmaceutical stimulant use in EDRS samples: 2007 to 2014' by Marina Nelson and Prof Simon Lenton, NDRI

Northern Territory

'Shining the Light on Australia's Top End: A Snapshot of the 2014 NT EDRS' by Elizabeth Whittaker and Lucy Burns, NDARC

'Northern territory IDRS results 2014' (IDRS) by Christopher Moon, NT Health

Queensland

'Overdose and drug dependency among regular illicit drug users in Australia' IDRS and EDRS by Sophie Hickey, Fairlie McIlwraith and A/Prof Rosa Alati, QADREC

NIDIP

'Findings from NIDIP, 2014' by Amanda Roxburgh and A/Prof Lucy Burns

DNet

'Monitoring Dark Web Marketplaces - Beyond the Silk Road' by Joe Van Buskirk, Simon Wu, Amanda Roxburgh and A/Prof Lucy Burns

Speaker: **A/Prof. Lucy Burns**

'What is Drug Trends'

Email: l.burns@unsw.edu.au

Dr Lucinda (Lucy) Burns is Associate Professor at NDARC and Manager of Australia's national drug monitoring programs - the Illicit Drug Reporting System (IDRS), the Ecstasy and Related Drugs Reporting System (EDRS), the National Illicit Drugs Indicator Project and the Drugs and the Internet project (DNeT).

She holds a Master of Public Health, PhD and Graduate Certificate in Health Policy. Her research interests include drug monitoring and surveillance systems; drug and alcohol treatment and the epidemiology of alcohol and other drug use, with a focus on particularly vulnerable populations. Much of her research over recent years has focused on two of the highest risk groups - pregnant women who are substance dependent and individuals who are homeless. She is currently engaged in a number of projects examining service provision for these groups such as the identification of best standard of care for Australians who are homeless and also have alcohol and drug use problems; methods to improve the sexual health of women who are drug dependent and identification and care of children with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder.

Notes:

Speaker: **Ms Jennifer Stafford**

'Key findings from the 2014 IDRS'

Email: j.stafford@unsw.edu.au

Jenny Stafford has been with the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC) since 2001. During this time Jenny has worked on a variety of projects including the National Evaluation of Pharmacotherapies for Opioid Dependence (NEPOD) and was involved in the development and dissemination of evidence-based guidelines for the treatment of alcohol problems. In 2004 Jenny was employed as the National Coordinator for the Illicit Drug Reporting System (IDRS) and Ecstasy and Related Drugs Reporting System (EDRS) before taking maternity leave. Jenny now works at NDARC in a part-time capacity as the assistant National Coordinator for the IDRS and EDRS. Before NDARC, Jenny worked as a registered nurse in the Alcohol and Other Drugs field.

Notes:

Speaker: **Ms Natasha Sindicich**

'Key findings from the 2014 EDRS'

Email: n.sindicih@unsw.edu.au

Natasha is currently employed as the National Coordinator of the Illicit Drug Reporting System (IDRS) and Ecstasy and Related Drugs Reporting System (EDRS). These strategic early warning systems monitor the use, price, purity, availability and harms of the major illicit drug classes in Australia.

Natasha joined NDARC in December 2006 and has worked on a variety of projects including: the Health and Psychological consequences of Ecstasy use monograph, The Michael Project (homelessness in men) and the Clubbing and Driving study. Previously, Natasha has worked with the Australian Institute of Criminology and NSW Police Force on the Drug Use Monitoring in Australia (DUMA) project. She completed her undergraduate psychology Honours degree at the University of New South Wales and is currently completing her Masters Psychology (Forensic) at the University of Western Sydney.

Notes:

Speaker: **Mr Jeremy Douglas**

'Trends in the Asia Pacific/Oceania region'

Email: jeremy.douglas@unodc.org

Mr Jeremy Douglas is the Regional Representative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) for Southeast Asia and the Pacific.

Prior to his arrival in Bangkok, Mr Douglas was the UNODC Representative in Pakistan between September 2009 – April 2013. Between 2007 and 2009, Mr Douglas was based in Vienna as Manager of UNODC's Global SMART Programme that improves the understanding of illicit synthetic drugs globally and in key regions, including East Asia and the Pacific, South Asia, the Near and Middle East, Africa, and the Americas, providing the international community with an evidence base for effective operational responses and interventions.

Preceding his time as Manager of the Global SMART Programme Mr Douglas was a Regional Project Coordinator for UNODC in East Asia based in the Bangkok Regional Centre between 2002 and 2007.

Mr Douglas has also worked with the United Nations in New York, the Management Board of Cabinet of the Government of Canada and with the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade of the Government of Canada in the Caribbean. Mr Douglas is a graduate of the London School of Economics in the United Kingdom and Bishop's University in Canada.

Notes:

Speaker: **Det. Sgt Keith Randall**

'Trends in the importation of border controlled drugs''

Email: Keith.Randall@afp.gov.au

Detective Sergeant Keith Randall is a member of the Australian Federal Police and is the Team Leader of the High Volume Crime Team based in Melbourne. He has over 30 years' experience in conducting Commonwealth criminal investigations targeting organised crime syndicates operating within Australia and at a transnational level involved with major drug importations, drug trafficking and money laundering. Part of his work role includes the triaging, evaluating, researching and investigating drug crime referrals to the AFP in the Victorian jurisdiction. He has provided expert evidence on drug type information and valuations to Courts in most jurisdictions in Australia.

Federal Agent RANDALL is also leader of the AFP Melbourne Office Specialist Support Team which provides resources and expertise to mitigate significant risk police actions.

He has delivered presentations to the Detective Training Schools of the AFP and Victoria Police on the investigation of Commonwealth Serious Drug Offences, as well as case studies to several overseas law enforcement agencies. He holds a Graduate Diploma in Police Management from Charles Sturt University.

Notes:

Speaker: **Ms Kerryn Butler**

'Hepatitis C and treatment'

Email: kerryn.butler@unsw.edu.au

Kerryn joined NDARC in June 2011 as a Research Officer and is currently the coordinator of the Illicit Drug Reporting System and the Ecstasy and Related Drugs Reporting System for the Australian Capital Territory. Previous research included an evaluation of the Alcohol and Other Drugs Consultation Liaison Services in NSW. She has a Masters of Social Health and Counselling from Macquarie University, Sydney. Prior to joining NDARC, Kerryn worked both on the frontline and in Program Development and Management for a number of non-government organisations.

Notes:

Speaker: **Dr Chris Hayes**

'New science of chronic pain'

Email: Chris.Hayes@hnehealth.nsw.gov.au

Dr Hayes is a specialist pain medicine physician with a background in anaesthesia. He has been Director of Hunter Integrated Pain Service (HIPS) since its foundation in 1997. He is a Board member of the Faculty of Pain Medicine and co-chair of the Agency for Clinical Innovation's NSW Pain Network.

His clinical and research interests focus on the emerging "whole person" approach in pain medicine, the process of clinical redesign and outcome measurement. He and the team at HIPS have a focus on development of online educational material and the use of social media to influence community understanding of pain.

Notes:

Speaker: **A/Prof. Nadine Ezard**

'Psychostimulant use'

Email: Nadine.Ezard@svha.org.au

A/Prof Nadine Ezard is the Clinical Director of the Alcohol and Drug Service, St Vincent's Hospital. A founding fellow of the Australasian Chapter of Addiction Medicine, she has worked with drug and alcohol users for over 20 years. Most recently she has worked overseas with the UN and WHO, with a particular focus on conflict and emergency settings and refugee and displaced populations. Her work on alcohol use in a Thai refugee camp earned her a PhD in Public Health, awarded in 2011. A/Prof Ezard has a personal commitment to human rights, social justice and empowering vulnerable persons towards self determination. Her body of peer-reviewed research focuses on building the evidence base for improved health interventions for marginalised populations. Recognising the importance of social determinants of health inequalities, she has a particular interest in building the evidence base for public health-clinical care linkages for reducing substance-related harm.

Notes:

Speaker: **Ms Claire Rickards and Sgt Melissa Nelmes**

'Drug Trends in NSW'

Email: rick1cla@police.nsw.gov.au

Notes:

Speaker: **Dr Karen Chronister**

'Performance and image enhancing drugs'

Email: Karen.Chronister@sesiahs.health.nsw.gov.au

Karen Chronister is an epidemiologist and public health researcher in the Viral Hepatitis Epidemiology and Prevention Program (VHEPP) at the Kirby Institute. As part of an on-going partnership between VHEPP and the Kirketon Road Centre (KRC) and South Eastern Sydney Local Health District, Karen is responsible for conducting research on injecting drug use, blood-borne and sexually transmitted infections, and related prevention and treatment initiative among people who inject drugs, female sex workers, and vulnerable youth.

Notes:

Speaker: **Ms Joanne Gerstner-Stevens**

'The Evolving Victorian Illicit Drug Market - 1988 to 2013'

Email: joanne.gerstner-stevens@police.vic.gov.au

Joanne is a Forensic Officer within the Victoria Police Forensic Services Department. She holds the degree of Bachelor of Science with a major in chemistry and has over 23 years of forensic analytical experience working in the fields of illicit substances, blood alcohol and drugs in blood and urine.

Joanne is currently the Manager of the Chemical Drug Intelligence Unit which in addition to analysing over 7,000 suspected drug items annually; maintains a drugs database containing the results of analysis of all suspected drugs seized by Victoria Police since 1997. The database is an invaluable intelligence tool which on this occasion was utilised along with archived analytical reports to provide drug analysis results from 1988 to 2013.

During her presentation, Joanne will discuss how the illicit drug market in Victoria has changed over the last 25 years. She will show the increases in quantity, variety and complexity of the drugs available and will touch upon the advancement in technology within the laboratories of the Forensic Drug Branch during the same period of time.

Notes:

Speaker: **Prof. Simon Lenton**

'Accessing drugs online: some user experiences and policy implications'

Email: S.Lenton@curtin.edu.au

Professor Simon Lenton PhD MPsych(clin) is a Deputy Director at the National Drug Research Institute at Curtin University, and works part time as a Clinical Psychologist in private practice specializing in drug issues. His research interests include bridging the gap between drug policy research and drug policy practice, illicit drug use and harm reduction, naloxone for peer administration, drugs and the internet, social supply of drugs, impact of legislative options for drugs, and drink and drug driving. He has published widely on drugs, health and the law and provided advice to a range of government and private organisations, both in Australia and internationally, on evidence based drug policy and other drug issues.

Notes:

Speaker: **Mr James Fetherston**

'Experiences of drug use in prison'

Email: J.Fetherston@curtin.edu.au

James Fetherston has been associated with NDRI since April 2001. He is currently enrolled in the NDRI PhD program, working on the thesis topic of hepatitis C prevention and treatment in custodial environments. The aims of his thesis are twofold: to estimate the potential of comprehensive provision of HCV treatments in prison using epidemic modelling techniques and to explore existing barriers to prisoners accessing HCV treatment.

Prior to this he was employed as a Research Associate working on projects investigating repeat drink drivers and community attitudes towards cannabis and its associated legislation. He was also the coordinator of the WA arm of the Illicit Drug Reporting System (IDRS) from 2002-2007 and remains attached to the project in an advisory capacity. Before joining NDRI, James was engaged as a Research Officer with the Drug and Alcohol Office (formerly known as Next Step Specialist Drug and Alcohol Services) and as a counsellor with the Alcohol and Drug Information Service (ADIS).

Notes:

IDRS

ILLICIT DRUG REPORTING SYSTEM
DRUG TRENDS BULLETIN
OCTOBER 2014

Key findings from the 2014 IDRS: a survey of people who inject drugs

Authors: Jennifer Stafford and Lucy Burns,
National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, University of New South Wales

UNSW AUSTRALIA

Medicine | National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre

KEY FINDINGS

- Heroin remained the most commonly reported drug of choice.
- Recent heroin use remained stable and frequency of use increased (however this was not significant). The availability of heroin was 'very easy' and purity 'low'.
- The recent use of any methamphatmine remained stable. However, the recent use of the form ice/crystal increased significantly. The frequency of ice/crystal use (days of use) also significantly increased. All forms were considered 'very easy' or 'easy' to obtain. Ice/crystal was reported as 'high' in purity, while speed powder and base were 'medium'.
- NSW remained the only jurisdiction where sizeable numbers of participants were able to comment on cocaine. Recent use and frequency of cocaine in NSW was stable. Price remained stable. Availability was reported as 'easy' and purity as 'medium'.
- The recent use of cannabis remained stable, however the frequency of use significantly decreased from daily to every second day. Hydroponic cannabis dominated the market.
- Extra-medical use and injection of pharmaceutical preparations continued to occur, with jurisdictional differences in patterns observed.
- Sharing of injecting equipment was common. Nearly half of the participants re-used their own needles in the last month.
- Over one-third of the national sample self-reported a mental health problem in the last six months. Mainly depression, followed by anxiety.
- Over one-third of the national sample reported a criminal activity in the last month, mainly drug dealing or property crime. Around one-third had been arrested in the last year.

INTRODUCTION

The Illicit Drug Reporting System (IDRS) monitors emerging trends in the use, price, purity and availability of heroin, methamphetamine, cocaine, cannabis and other drugs. In addition to a survey of people who inject drugs (PWID), the annual data collection also includes a survey of key experts (KE) who are professionals in the field of illicit drugs and the analysis of existing indicator data on drug-related issues. Since 2000, all three components of the IDRS were conducted in every state and territory in Australia.

The key findings of the 2014 IDRS participant (PWID) surveys are presented in this bulletin. Regular PWID were recruited as they are considered a sentinel group able to provide information on a range of illicit drug trends and related issues. The information from the PWID survey is therefore not representative of illicit drug use in the general population, and is not representative of other illicit drug users (e.g. in other geographical areas, occasional users, etc), but it is indicative of emerging trends that may warrant further monitoring and/or investigation.

Notes on interpretation:

- 'Recent' refers to the six months preceding interview
- 'Frequency' data refers to the number of days on which those participants had recently used the drug (maximum days = 180)
- ↑Significant increase ($p>0.05$) from previous year (2013) compared with current year (2014)
- ↓Significant decrease ($p<0.05$) from previous year (2013) compared with current year (2014)

NATIONAL OVERVIEW

Demographics

In 2014, a total of 898 participants were interviewed for the IDRS survey. The mean age of the sample was 41 years, ranging from 18-67 years. Around two-thirds of the sample was male. The majority were unemployed, with a mean

ISSN 1449-2725 Funded by the Australian Government under the Substance Misuse Prevention and Service Improvement Grants Fund

income of $416 per week. Nearly half of the sample reported being in current treatment (mainly methadone maintenance). Around half of the participants reported a prison history (Table 1).

Drug use patterns

Among the national sample the mean age of first injecting was 20 years (range 5-60 years). The main drug of choice and drug injected most often in the last month was heroin followed by methamphetamines and morphine. These results are similar to the 2013 IDRS. Those reporting ic/cyrstal as the drug injected most often in the last month significantly increased between 2013 and 2014 (Table 1).

Table 1: Demographic characteristics of the national sample, by jurisdiction, 2013-2014

	National	
	2013 (N=887)	2014 (N=898)
Mean age (years)	40	41
% Male	64	69
% Unemployed	84	83
Mean income/week ($)	(N=871) $392	(N=882) $416
% Prison history	56	55
% Currently in drug treatment	47	47
Mean age first injected	20	20
% Drug of choice		
Heroin	53	50
Any methamphetamine#	23	24
Speed	*10*	8
Base	*2*	2
Ice/crystal	*11*	14
Morphine	8	10
Oxycodone	3	1
Methadone	1	4
Cocaine	2	1
Cannabis	5	5
% Drug injected most often in the last month		
Heroin	40	41
Any methamphetamine#	*25*	30
Speed	*8*	6
Base	*2*	1
Ice/crystal	15	22↑
Morphine	17	16
Oxycodone	5	2
Methadone	4	4
Cocaine	1	<1

Source: IDRS IDU participant interviews
includes speed powder, base, ice/crystal and liquid methamphetamine

Recent use

Heroin

In 2014, around two-thirds (60%) of the national sample reported use in the preceding six months on a median of 72 days (Figure 1 and Table 2). Daily use was reported by 25% of recent heroin users (15% of the national sample). While the recent use of heroin was stable the frequency of use increased between 2013 and 2014 (60 days versus 72 days), however this difference was not significant.

Methamphetamine

Nationally, the recent use of any methamphetamine (speed, base or ice/crystal) remained stable. However, the recent use of the form ice/cystal significantly increased between 2013 and 2014 ($p<0.05$). The recent use of the forms speed and base remained stable (Figure 1 and Table 2). The 2013 National Drug Strategy Household Survey also found an increase in ice/cystral as the main form used among those who used any methamphatemine in the last 12 months (22% in 2010 to 50% in 2013; AIHW 2014). Data from the Australian Customs and Border Proptection Service also reported an increase in the number of dections and weight for ice/crsytal in 2012/13 (Australain Customs; Figure 2).

The recent use of each form varied among jurisdictions. Nationally, the frequency of use of any form of methamphetamine (by users) remained stable at 24 days; however the frequency of ice use significantly increased (12 days in 2013 to 20 days in 2014). The proportion of all participants who reported daily methamphetamine (among those recently used) use was relatively stable at 8% nationally (6% in 2013). Daily use of ice/crystal also remained stable.

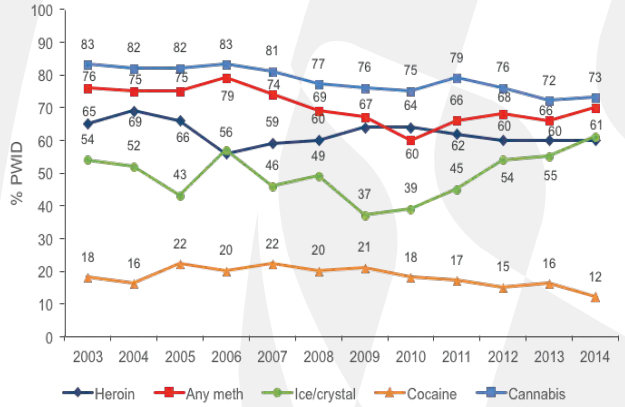
Cocaine

The prevalence of cocaine use in the six months preceding interview was 15% or less in all jurisdictions except NSW where it was higher (32%). Nationally recent cocaine use was stable (12%, Figure 1 and Table 2). The frequency of cocaine use was also stable and remained low and sporadic in all other jurisdictions.

Cannabis

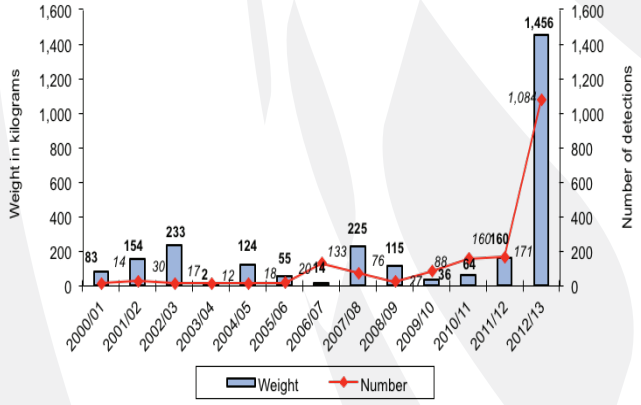
As in previous years of the IDRS, cannabis use among this group was common nationally (Figure 1 and Table 2). Frequency of cannabis use significantly decreased from 170 days in 2013 to 96 days in 2014. Cannabis remained readily available in all jurisdictions. Hydroponic cannabis dominated the market.

Figure 1: Recent use of heroin, any methamphetamine, cocaine and cannabis, nationally, 2000-2014



Source: IDRS Injecting drug user interviews

Figure 2: Weight and number of detections of crystalline methamphetamine (ice) made at the border by the Australian Customs abd Border Protection Service, 2000/01-2012/13



Source: Australia Custom and Border Protection Service

Pharmaceuticals

Morphine remained the most commonly injected pharmaceutical opioid among the national sample. Reports of this behaviour remained highest in the NT (84%) and TAS (71%), the jurisdictions where heroin has traditionally been the least available. Morphine and oxycodone injection remained stable over the last two years, from 35% in 2013 and 2014 (morphine) and 31% in 2013 to 28% in 2014 (oxycodone). Frequency of illicit use, as with all extra-medical use of opioid medication, remained sporadic.

Table 2: Recent use of heroin, methamphetamine, cocaine and cannabis by participants who commented, nationally, 2013-2014

	National	
	2013 (N=887)	2014 (N=898)
% Recent use		
Heroin	60	60
Any Methamphetamine#	66	70
Speed	*34*	*30*
Base	*13*	*12*
Ice/crystal	*55*	*61↑*
Cocaine	16	12
Cannabis	72	73
Median days of use^		
Heroin	60	72
Any Methamphetamine#	24	24
Speed	*10*	*6*
Base	*6*	*6*
Ice/crystal	*12*	*20↑*
Cocaine	3	2
Cannabis	170	96↓

Source: IDRS IDU participant interviews
includes speed powder, base, ice/crystal and liquid methamphetamine
^ among those who had used; maximum number of days, i.e. daily use = 180

Table 3: Recent use and perceptions of current availability and purity/potency of heroin, methamphetamine, cocaine and cannabis by participants who commented, nationally, 2014

	Heroin	Methamphetamine			Cocaine	Cannabis	
		Speed powder	Base	Ice/crystal		Hydro	Bush
% Availability (n)	(N=515)	(N=192)	(N=79)	(N=451)	(N=53)	(N=485)	(N=211)
Very easy	50	34	34	49	34	51	29
Easy	39	51	49	42	38	40	43
Difficult	10	14	11	9	25	9	26
Very difficult	2	2	5	0	4	0	2
% Purity/potency (n)	(N=499)	(N=192)	(N=76)	(N=441)	(N=51)	(N=479)	(N=205)
High	10	29	31	40	29	55	22
Medium	30	37	32	31	33	32	54
Low	46	20	20	12	26	3	11
Fluctuates	13	15	17	17	12	10	14

Source: IDRS participant interviews

Use of benzodiazepines (typically by swallowing) remained common among this sample at 63% (result includes benzodiazepines used as prescribed). By contrast, benzodiazepine injection was relatively uncommon, a behaviour reported by 4% of the national sample (6% in 2013).

Price, purity and availability

Heroin

The price of heroin varied among the jurisdictions ranging from $250 to $600 for a gram and $50 to $100 for a cap. The availability of heroin was reported as either 'very easy' to obtain in the last six months. Purity varied with the majority of jurisdictions reporting purity as either 'low' (Table 3).

Methamphetamine

Prices for speed powder, base and ice/crystal varied across jurisdictions. Overall, the three main forms of methamphetamine were generally considered 'very easy' or 'easy' to obtain, with percentages between 9-14% nationally also reporting all forms as 'difficult' to obtain. Of the three forms, ice/crystal was reported to be of 'high' purity, while speed powder and base were commonly reported to be 'medium' (Table 3).

Cocaine

The price of a cap of cocaine remained stable at $50 in NSW, which remained the only jurisdiction where sufficient numbers (i.e. >10 people) were able to comment. The availability of cocaine was reported as 'easy' to obtain and the purity as 'medium' (Table 3).

Cannabis

The price per gram varied by type (hydroponic or bush cannabis) and by jurisdiction. Hydroponically grown cannabis continued to dominate the market. The use of bush (outdoor grown) cannabis was also noted in all jurisdictions. The availability of hydroponic cannabis was reported as 'very easy' to obtain while bush cannabis was reported as 'easy'. The potency of hydroponic cannabis continued to be rated as 'high' and bush cannabis as 'medium' (Table 3).

Injecting risk behaviours

Among the national sample, similar proportions to the 2013 IDRS reported either borrowing a needle or lending a needle in the last month. Twenty-five percent of participants reported sharing injecting equipment (excluding needles). The main equipment shared among those who reported sharing other injecting equipment were spoons and tourniquets (76% and 23% respectively). Nearly half of the national sample reported re-using their own needle in the last month.

The proportion of participants re-using their own injecting equipment remained fairly stable (52% in 2013 and 56% in 2014). Among those who re-used their own injecting equipment the majority reported re-using spoons (81%), followed by tourniquets (40%). The arm was reported as the last site of injection (76%; Table 4).

Self-reported mental health

Over one-third of the national sample self-reported a mental health problem in the last six months. The most common self-reported mental health problem was depression, followed by anxiety. Of those with a self-reported mental health problem, 72% reported attending a health professional for their mental health problem (Table 5). No significant differences were found between years.

Table 4: Injecting risk behaviour in last month, 2013-2014

	National	
	2013 (N=887)	2014 (N=898)
% Borrowed a needle	7	6
% Lent a needle	11	12
% Shared other injecting equipment#*	24	25
% Re-used own needle	40	41
% Re-used own injecting equipment	52	56
% Injecting equipment reused# (n)	(N=465)	(N=507)
Spoons	81	81
Filters	11	9
Tourniquets	40	40
Water	15	15
Swabs	2	3
Wheel filters	1	4
Other	1	2
% Last site of injection (n)	(N=859)	(N=868)
Arm	74	76
Leg	6	4
Hand	13	13
Foot	2	2
Groin	2	2
Neck	3	3
Other	1	1

Source: IDRS Injecting drug user interviews
includes spoons, water, tourniquets and filters

Criminal activity

Thirty-eight percent of the national sample reported a criminal activity in the last month. The most common criminal activity reported was drug dealing and property crime. Over one-third of the sample had been arrested in the last 12 months (Table 6). No significant differences were found between years for crime in the last month and arrested in the last 12 months.

Table 5: Self-reported mental health problems experienced in the preceding six months, 2013-2014

	National	
	2013 (N=887)	2014 (N=898)
% Self-reported mental health problem	44	39
% Problem# (n)	(N=388)	(N=346)
Depression	66	68
Anxiety	46	48
Manic-depression/Bipolar	10	13
Schizophrenia	15	15
Panic	8	11
Paranoia	4	7
Drug induced psychosis	4	7
% Attended health professional for mental health problem#	74	72

Source: IDRS Injecting drug user interviews
among those who reported a mental health issue

Table 6: Proportion of IDU that reported criminal activity, 2013-2014

	National	
	2013 (N=887)	2014 (N=898)
% Crime in the last month		
Drug dealing	23	25
Property	18	18
Fraud	2	4
Violence	3	5
Any crime	36	38
% Arrested last 12 months	32	33

Source: IDRS Injecting drug user interviews

More information

For more detailed information on the prevalence of use, price, purity/potency and availability by this group, including key expert and indicator data in each jurisdiction please refer to the national and jurisdictional IDRS *Drug Trends* annual reports, which will be available through NDARC in early 2015. Previous years' reports are available on the NDARC website, www.ndarc.med.unsw.edu.au (click on 'Drug Trends').

Participating researchers and research centres

A/Professor Lucy Burns, Ms Natasha Sindicich, Mrs Jennifer Stafford, Ms Kerryn Butler, Ms Rachel Sutherland and Mr David McKell, National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, University of New South Wales;

Ms Shelley Cogger and Professor Paul Dietze, Burnet Institute Victoria;

Ms Barbara de Graaff, Dr Amy Peacock and A/Professor Raimondo Bruno, School of Medicine (Psychology), University of Tasmania;

Mr James Fetherston and Professor Simon Lenton, National Drug Research Institute, Curtin University, Western Australia;

Mr Chris Moon and Ms Susan Fong, Northern Territory Department of Health; and

Dr Fairlie McIlwraith and Ms Sophie Hickey, Queensland Alcohol and Drug Research and Education Centre, and A/Professor Rosa Alati, School of Population Health, University of Queensland.

Other acknowledgements

The people who inject drugs and key experts who took part

The agencies that assisted with interviewing and indicator data

The IDRS is funded by the Australian Government under the Substance Misuse Prevention and Service Improvement Grants Fund

References

AIHW (2014). http://www.aihw.gov.au/alcohol-and-other-drugs/ndshs/2013/illicit-drug-use/ (date accessed 15/09/2014).

Australian Customs and Border Protection Services (2014). http://www.customs.gov.au/aboutus/annualreports/2013/p3a.html (date accessed 15/09/2014).

Suggested citation

Stafford. J. & Burns, L. (2014). Key findings from the 2014 IDRS: a survey of people who inject drugs. Drug Trends Bulletin, October 2014. Sydney: National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, University of New South Wales, Australia.

ECSTASY AND RELATED DRUGS REPORTING SYSTEM
DRUG TRENDS BULLETIN
OCTOBER 2014

An overview of the 2014 Ecstasy and Related Drugs Reporting System

Authors: Natasha Sindicich and Lucy Burns
National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, The University of New South Wales

Medicine | National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre

KEY FINDINGS

- 800 participants took part in the EDRS in 2014. RPU were primarily recruited through the internet and word-of-mouth
- Preference for ecstasy has stabilised with 2013 figures. Alcohol has significantly decreased in relation to preference.
- Whilst the most popular form of ecstasy consumed on a regular basis is pills (tablet form), there has been an increasing trend in the use of MDMA crystal with 2014 being the first year of market characteristics collected. This form was to be considered a much more potent form of ecstasy with 58% of MDMA crystal/rock users reporting it being of 'high' purity compared to 21% of those reporting pills, powder and caps purity form being 'high'.
- Speed powder remained the form of methamphetamine most used. No changes in consumption or market characteristics were detected for speed, base or ice/crystal meth.
- Cocaine significantly increased in recent use from 36% to 44% in 2014, however, days of use remained low and sporadic.
- NPS recent use remained steady at 37% in 2014 (36% in 2013). Frequency of use remains low 1-2 days. Particular NPS that were reportedly most used included: 2C-B, DMT and NBOMe. In relation to being sought, 50% of users of NPS reported they sought a particular NPS substance whereas 58% of users reported it was offered to them.
- Synthetic cannabis saw a decline in recent use from 16% to 7% particularly the brand/form Kronic.
- LSD, ketamine and GHB showed stable recent use from 2013 to 2014. Mushrooms significantly decreased from 27% to 21%.
- Cannabis, tobacco, alcohol and other drugs all showed similar rates to recent use to last year.
- Online purchasing patterns: The internet became the prime method in which way most EDRS participants were recruited for the study. Six-and-a-half percent purchased any drug online (including NPS).

INTRODUCTION

The Ecstasy and Related Drugs Reporting System (EDRS) is the most comprehensive and detailed study of ecstasy and related drug markets in Australia. The EDRS uses a similar methodology to the Illicit Drug Reporting System (IDRS). The EDRS monitors the price, purity and availability of 'ecstasy' (MDMA) and other related drugs such as methamphetamine, cocaine, GHB, ketamine and more recently new psychoactive substances (NPS). It also examines trends in the use and harms of these drugs. The data collection includes: a) surveys with regular psychostimulant users (RPU); b) surveys with key experts who have contact with regular ecstasy users through the nature of their work; and c) the analysis of existing data sources that contain information on ecstasy and other drugs.

Drug trends in this publication are cited by state/territory, although they represent trends in the capital city of each jurisdiction. Further details, including key expert and indicator data, will be published in the national and jurisdictional EDRS *Drug Trends* annual reports, which will be available through NDARC in April 2015. Previous years' findings are available in national and jurisdictional reports on the NDARC website, www.ndarc.med.unsw.edu.au (click on 'Drug Trends').

Notes on interpretation:

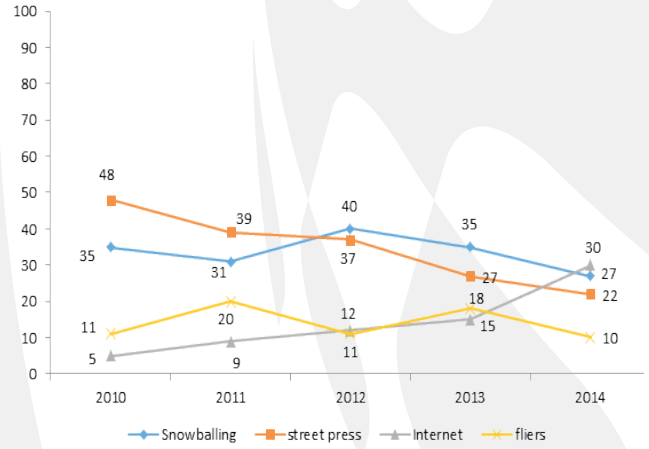
- 'Recent use' data in this bulletin refers to the proportion of participants who had used the drug on at least one occasion in the last six months.
- 'Frequency' data refer to the number of days on which those participants had recently used the drug.
- 'Lifetime' refers to ever having used a drug.
- ↑ Significant increase ($p<0.05$) from previous year (2013) compared with current year (2014)
- ↓ Significant decrease ($p<0.05$) from previous year (2013) compared with current year (2014)

ISSN 1835-8233

Funded by the Australian Government under the Substance Misuse Prevention and Service Improvement Grants Fund

This bulletin contains a summary of the key findings from the psychostimulant user survey component of the 2014 national EDRS, in which 800 participants were recruited, of which n=100 were from every capital city and territory across Australia. This represents the twelfth year in which the study was conducted nationally. Participants in 2014 were recruited primarily from the internet (30%) followed by word-of mouth (27%). This is the first year whereby the internet has been the method the highest proportion of RPU have been recruited (see figure 1). The internet as a form of recruitment doubled in proportion from 15% in 2013 to 30% in 2014 (p= 0.000).

Figure 1: National overview of recruitment, 2010-2014



Source: EDRS interviews

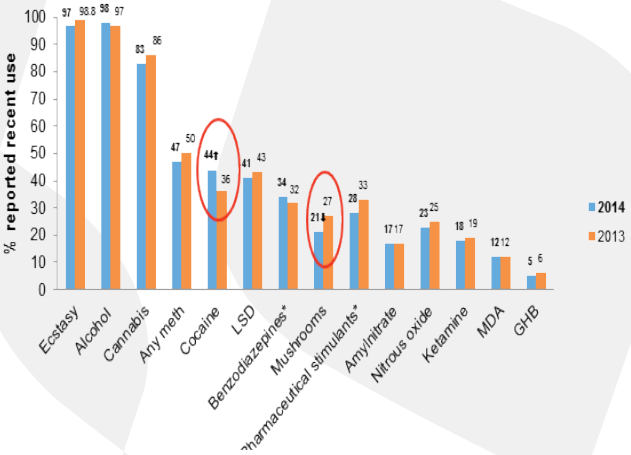
Demographics of EDRS participants

In 2014, EDRS demographic characteristics remained generally consistent across jurisdictions and are similar to those collected over previous years. The mean age of participants was 23 years (SD 6.03), and a higher proportion of the sample were male (66%). Participants generally reported being of an English speaking background 97% with most (84%) born in Australia. The majority reported being heterosexual (89%) and over half of single status (58%). Two-fifths (46%) were tertiary educated, with half reporting either full (25%) or part-time employment (26%). Main source of income for this sample was wages or salary (72%) followed by government benefits (19%), parental allowance (5%), criminal activity (2%), other means (<1%) and no income (3%). Mean weekly income nationally was $601 with variations across jurisdictions. In terms of living situation, most reported renting (50%) or living in the family home (41%) with small proportions reporting no fixed address (i.e. homeless 'sleeping rough') or boarding/at a hostel (4%). As in previous years, a small percentage (2%) reported being in drug treatment mainly drug counseling.

National Snapshot Overview

In terms of recent use, alcohol was the most reported substance consumed by 98% over the six month period. Ecstasy was reportedly used by nearly all participants (97%) except n=13. Third in line was cannabis (83%) followed by methamphetamine (47%) (including speed, base and ice/crystal). The only drug classes to see significant changes were cocaine with an increase from 36% to 44% and mushrooms with a decrease from 27% to 21% (p<0.05; see figure 2). Of note is that while prevalence of recent use is reported in the figure below, frequency of use of these drugs must also be considered and is discussed by drug type later in the bulletin.

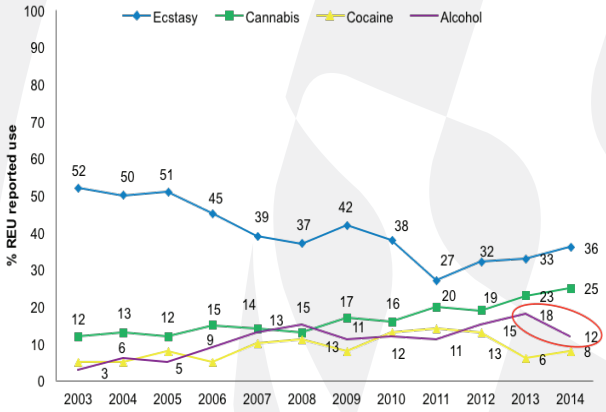
Figure 2: National overview of recent EDRS participant use, 2013-2014



Source: EDRS interviews
* includes licit and illicit use

Preference for ecstasy as the participants' drug of choice (i.e. preferred drug) continues to steady at 36%, see figure 3). In 2014, the second most frequently nominated drug of choice was cannabis (25%), followed by alcohol (12%). In 2014, alcohol saw a decrease in preference from 2013 (18% vs. 12%, p=0.001). Cocaine (8%) was the fourth most endorsed drug in terms of preference (see figure 3). Participants were asked which drug they had used most often in the month prior to interview to which the trend was very similar to recent use and drug of choice which the highest proportion reported they had used cannabis (32%), followed by alcohol (31%) and ecstasy (25%).

Figure 3: Drug of choice trends EDRS participants, 2003-2014



Source: EDRS interviews

Ecstasy

Consumption patterns

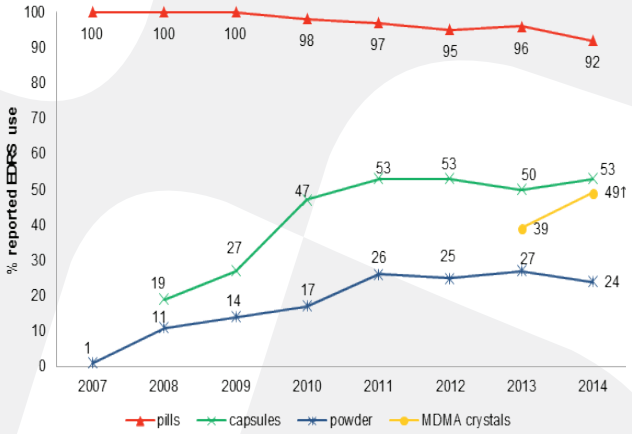
Nationally, ecstasy (all forms of pills, powder, capsules and crystals/rock) was used on a median of 13 days in the six months prior to interview (approximately once per fortnight; range 1-180 days). No differences were found in frequency of using ecstasy, with most use falling in the monthly to fortnightly category (51%). Participants reported using a median of two ecstasy tablets in a typical session of use, of which almost one-third (28%) reported use of more than two tablets in a typical session. In terms of the average amount used in a session of 'other forms' of ecstasy use, the regular user reported using a median of 0.5 grams (range 0.1-10 grams) of powder in a typical session and a median of 2 capsules of MDMA crystal (range 0.1-7 capsules) in a typical session.

A fifth (19%) reported using only ecstasy pills, implying that most of the participants that reported ecstasy use are using a variation of the other forms. In recent years the other forms of powder and particularly capsules have become a common form of consumption for the drug (see figure 4). In 2012, a new form of ecstasy termed 'MDMA crystal/rock' had been reported by 2% (n=11) of the national sample mostly in VIC, NSW and QLD, in 2013 that figure rose to 39% and in 2014 it was reported by almost half of the entire sample (49%, a significant increase from 2013). Interestingly however, the delivery method of the crystalline form of ecstasy can be in capsules or in the crystalline rock form measured in caps and grams. Overall, the main route of administration for any form of ecstasy was swallowing (87%) followed by snorting (13%).

In relation to location, ecstasy remained a drug that was taken primarily in social settings with 70% of participants reporting that they consumed ecstasy on the last occasion in a public place (nightclubs 40%, live music event 15%, raves 5%, pub 7%, outdoors 2% and other public place 1%).

This year the practice of bingeing (using drugs for 48 hours or more without sleep) specifically on ecstasy and using other drugs with ecstasy experienced a significant decline in reports (binge 31% in 2013 vs. 24% in 2014, p=0.002; drugs used with ecstasy 91% in 2013 vs. 84% in 2014, p=0.000).

Figure 4: Forms of ecstasy used, 2007-2014



Source: EDRS interviews
Note: capsules were only included in the EDRS survey in 2008, crystals were only included in 2013

Market characteristics

The national price of ecstasy pills remained consistent with previous years at $25 per pill. Price of ecstasy pills in 2014 has remained generally similar across jurisdictions (ranging from $20 in SA to $40 in the NT). Last price paid per gram of ecstasy powder nationally was $250 (range $ 25-$600), and for capsules the last price paid was $30 (range $10 to $70). In terms of price changes for pills, powder and capsules, the highest proportion of participants reported the price was stable which was reflected in the figures reported by the last price paid for each form. Lower prices reported in the range are most likely due to purchases being made in bulk.

Availability for ecstasy pills, powder and capsules appeared to have significantly increased from 2013 with a higher proportion reporting that it was 'easy to very easy' to obtain (89% vs. 86%, p=0.004). In relation to purity, results were consistent with last year with 36% reporting that it was 'medium', 21% reporting that it was 'low', 19% reported that it was 'high' and 23% reported that it 'fluctuated'.

MDMA crystal/rock

This is the first year in which specific market characteristics were collected for this form. Often sold in capsules (caps) MDMA crystal a new form, considered of a higher purity than the other forms of ecstasy. Price is approximately $250 per gram of MDMA crystals (range $30-600), per point the median national price was $30 (range $20-$350). Price is considered to have remained stable (68%) over the past six month period. Interestingly in comparison to the other forms of ecstasy, 58% reported purity of MDMA crystal to be 'high', 26% 'medium', 9% is 'low' and 8% has 'fluctuated'. Over half the sample (54%) that used MDMA crystal reported this purity level to have been stable over the past six months. Sixty-eight percent reported that MDMA crystal was 'easy' to 'very easy' to obtain.

New psychoactive substances (NPS) use

This class of drug known as new psychoactive substances (NPS) or by law enforcement termed 'analogues and other synthetic drugs' have been present in Australia and on the international market since the mid 2000's. However in Australia NPS have gained popularity by way of media coverage, reported recent use, and customs detections only in recent years. NPS are available within the illicit drug market and are variants (or mimic) a parent compound which is usually a prohibited or scheduled drug e.g. cocaine or MDMA. In recent years, this class of drug has begun being sought out rather than used as a substitute to traditional drugs. Prevalence in the EDRS remains moderate however frequency of use remains low indicating more sporadic use in comparison to the more established classes of illicit drugs that this group use.

These classes of drugs were initially investigated by the EDRS in 2010. In 2014, the number of EDRS participants that had consumed an NPS in the previous 6 month period remained steady at 36% from 37% in 2013 (see figure 5). Frequency of use for separate NPS remains low at 1-2 days over the last six months (i.e. equating to sporadic use). Particular NPS that remained more frequently reported in use were DMT, 2CB and NBOMe (see table 1). This year participants were asked specifically if they sought out NPS specifically or if it was offered to them to which there was an almost comparable proportion reporting that they sought out NPS specifically (50% of those that used an NPS recently) versus it being offered to them (58% of those that used an NPS recently).

Table 1: Recent use of NPS, Nationally, 2011-2014

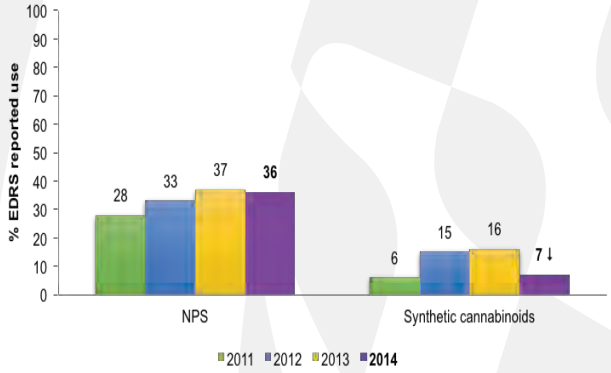
(%)	2014 N=800	2013 N=686	2012 N=607	2011 N=574
Phenethylamines (2C-x Class)				
2CB	12	14	9	8
2CI	6	8	2	4
2CE	<1	1	3	3
NBOMe	9	n.a	n.a	n.a
Synthetic canthinones				
Mephedrone	5	6	5	13
Methylone/bk MDMA	3	3	5	5
Ivory Wave/MDPV/ Bath salts	<1	1	2.5	1
Tryptamines				
DMT	14	14	12	13
Dissociative				
DXM (Cough syrup)	3	4	2.5	5
Methoxetamine (MXE)	2	2	1	n.a

Source: EDRS participant interviews
Note: n.a means data was not available that year

Cannabimimetics or synthetic cannabinoids of which many traditionally contain synthetic chemicals which mimic the effects of the main psychoactive component of cannabis tetrahydrocannabioid (THC) has also been linked to this NPS class of drugs. The figure for synthetic cannabinoids in 2014 has significantly decreased from 16% in 2013 to 7% in 2014 (p=0.000) (see figure 5). Particularly, the brand of Kronic has decreased from 8% in 2013 to 3% in 2014 (p=0.000). K2/Spice brand of synthetic cannabinoids has remained stable, 'other synthetic cannabinoids' reported category has also had a significant decrease in those reporting recent use (6% in 2013 vs. 3% in 2014, p=0.001). Frequency of use remains low at 1-2.5 days. This decrease in recent use of synthetic cannabinoids is consistent with the low and negative ratings from EDRS participants in relation to the effects of the high, the comedown effects and whether they would take synthetic cannabinoids again (for more information see: Sindicich & Burns, 2014).

NPS are now found in most of Europe and a North America, as well as Oceania, Asia and South America and a in a number of African countries. The number of novel NPS to enter the global market more than doubled over the period 2009-2013, with 348 substances in total up from 251 substances in July 2012 (UNODC, World Drug Report 2014). Australia is now one of the few countries that can now offer population estimates on NPS recent use (0.4%) and synthetic cannabis recent use (1.2%) (AIHW, 2014).

Figure 5: Recent use of NPS and synthetic cannabinoids, nationally, 2011-2014



Source: EDRS participant interviews

Methamphetamine

Consumption patterns

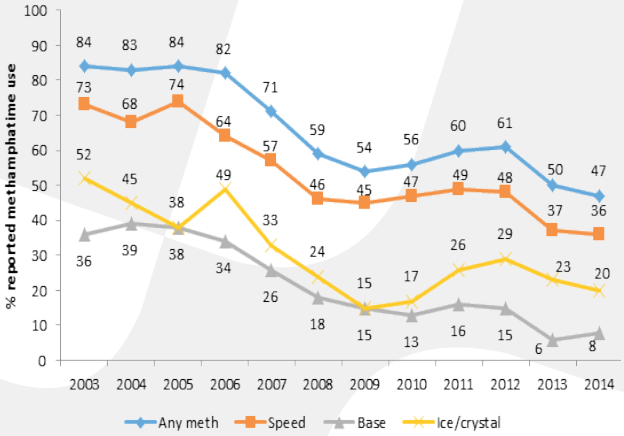
The EDRS distinguishes between the three forms of methamphetamine – methamphetamine powder ('speed'); methamphetamine base ('base'); and crystalline methamphetamine, ('crystal' or 'ice'). All three forms were found to have stabilized with figures from 2013 (see figure 6). Speed remained the form most used by this group. Base remained particularly low, ice/crystal was proportionately lower across most states with VIC reporting the highest use. Frequency of use was stable across the forms (nationally speed: 3 days, base: 5 days, ice/crystal: 6 day; and any form methamphetamine: 4 days i.e. approximately monthly use).

Market characteristics

The price of a gram of speed increased with median price nationally at $250 in 2014 (from $200 in 2013), variance was reported across states. The median price nationally for a point of ice/crystal was $100 and varied this year from $50 in NSW to $150 in the NT.

There were no significant differences in relation to ease of availability of any of the forms of methamphetamine or in relation to reported purity. All forms were reported by the majority as 'easy-to- very easy' to obtain and speed was considered 'medium' purity whilst base and ice/crystal were considered to be of 'high' purity.

Figure 6: Prevalence of recent use of methamphetamine, by EDRS participants, Australia, 2003-2014



Source: EDRS participant interviews

Cocaine

Consumption patterns

In 2014, cocaine use significantly increased nationally from 36% in 2013 to 44% in 2014 (p=0.002). Proportionately, all states reported an increase in recent cocaine use except for WA. Frequency of use remained low at 2-3 days (sporadic use) nationally and across most jurisdictions, except for ACT where it was 6 days (approximately monthly).

Market characteristics

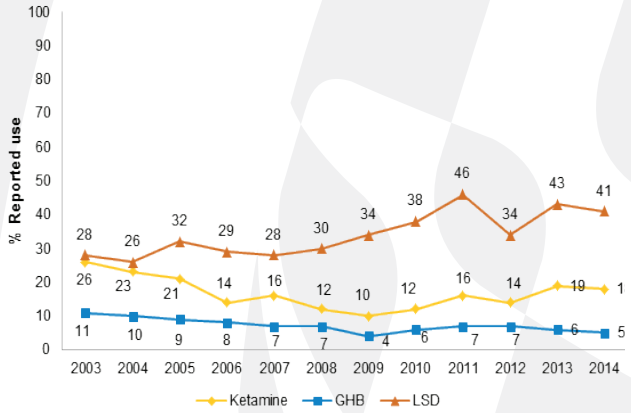
The price per gram of cocaine nationally was $300, ranging from $300 in NSW, ACT, VIC, SA and QLD to $400 in WA. There were no changes reported in terms of availability with over half (57%) of the sample reporting it was 'easy to very easy' to access cocaine. Purity remained similar to 2013 results with the greatest proportion endorsing cocaine purity to be 'medium' (37%).

Hallucinogens (LSD and mushrooms), Ketamine and GHB

Consumption patterns

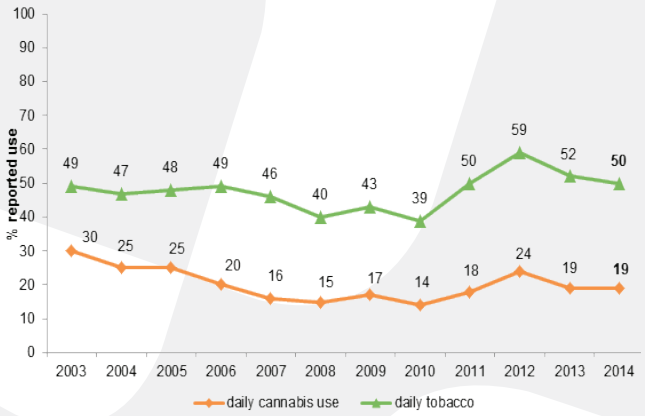
Recent use of LSD remained stable at 41% in 2014, while recent mushroom use saw a significant decrease from 27% in 2013 to 21% in 2014 (p=0.01). Ketamine recent use has remained stable at 18% (19% in 2013). GHB use was stable (see figure 7) at 5% nationally. Days of use remained low (sporadic) at 2 days nationally for LSD, Ketamine and GHB.

Figure 7: Prevalence of use of LSD, Ketamine and GHB, 2003-2014



Source: EDRS interviews

Figure 8: Proportion of daily cannabis and tobacco smokers in EDRS sample, 2003-2014



Source: EDRS interviews
Note: * includes licit and illicit use

Cannabis, tobacco, alcohol and other drugs

Consumption patterns

Reported recent use of cannabis remained stable in 2014 (86% in 2013 vs. 83% in 2014). Daily use of cannabis was stable at 19% in 2014 (19% also in 2013). Recent use of tobacco was stable with figures in 2013 (77% in 2014 vs. 77% in 2013). Daily use of tobacco was stable at 50% from 52% in 2013 (see figure 8).

Alcohol is the drug most used by this sample over a six month period with almost all participants (98%) reporting recent use. Median days of use is 48 (approximately twice weekly), with 5% of the sample reporting daily drinking. Use of alcohol in this group is an issue that warrants further monitoring.

Most other drugs were reported at similar levels to those reported in 2013 (see table 2).

Online purchasing patterns

Whilst the internet grows as a method of recruitment for RPU, it continues to grow, albeit incrementally, as a source of obtaining drugs. In 2014 6.5% (6% in 2013) of all drugs including NPS, were reportedly purchased online. In relation to the NPS category, 4.4% (4% in 2013) were purchased online and for the traditional drug classes of ecstasy, methamphetamine etc. 4% (3% in 2013) were purchased online. In 2014 a module was included which explored online purchasing patterns of RPU, for more information please consult the 2014 national EDRS report or 'Key Findings of the 2014 EDRS (20th October 2014)'.

Table 2: Use of other drugs in the six months prior to interview, 2014

(%)	National N=686	National N=800	NSW n=100	ACT n=100	VIC n=100	TAS n=100	SA n=100	WA n=100	NT n=100	QLD n=100
Alcohol	97	98	100	95	99	97	100	98	96	97
Tobacco	77	77	80	76	83	82	82	77	68	71
Pharmaceutical stimulants#	33	28	24	11	32	18	22	81	13	22
Amyl nitrate	17	17	46	17	34	12	7	4	6	6
Nitrous oxide	25	23	26	15	53	17	8	32	10	26
Heroin	4	2	2	3	6	2	2	0	1	3
Methadone#	2	1	0	0	1	3	1	2	0	2
Buprenorphine#	1	1	1	0	1	2	3	0	0	2
Other opiates#	14	14	12	9	27	15	11	8	3	25
Antidepressants#	11	8	8	9	7	5	6	6	7	16
Benzodiazepines#	32	34	35	13	59	40	22	35	17	49
Mushrooms	27	21 ↓	21	17	25	21	22	25	11	25
MDA	12	12	12	10	21	6	3	13	13	17
Steroids	<1	2	2	0	2	0	3	1	4	3

Source: EDRS interviews

For further information:

For further jurisdictional information on any information reported above visit www.ndarc.med.unsw.edu.au, click on 'Drug Trends logo', and see: 2014 Drug Trends Conference: 'Key Findings of the 2014 EDRS (20th October 2014)'.

Participating researchers and research centres

A/Prof Lucy Burns, Natasha Sindicich, Jennifer Stafford, Kerryn Butler, Gavin Entwistle, Rachel Sutherland and Elizabeth Whittaker. National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (National, NSW, ACT, SA & NT)

Arthur Truong and Prof Paul Dietze, Burnet Institute. (VIC)

Dr Allison Matthews and A/Prof Raimondo Bruno, University of Tasmania (TAS)

Marina Nelson and Prof Simon Lenton, National Drug Research Institute (WA)

Dr Fairlie McIlwraith, Sophie Hickey and A/Prof Rosa Alati, Queensland Alcohol and Drug Research and Education Centre (QLD)

Other acknowledgements

The participants and key experts who took part

The agencies that assisted with interviewing and indicator data

The funders, the Australian Government Department of Health

References

AIHW (2014). http://www.aihw.gov.au/alcohol-and-other-drugs/ndshs/2013/data-and-references/ (date accessed 9/09/2014).

Sindicich, N. & Burns, L. (2014). Australian Trends in Ecstasy and related Drug Markets 2013. Findings from the Ecstasy and Related Drugs Reporting System (EDRS). Australian Drug Trends Series No.48. Sydney, National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, UNSW Australia.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, World Drug Report 2014 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.14.XI.7).

DRUG AND THE INTERNET

DRUG TRENDS BULLETIN

OCTOBER 2014

Monitoring Dark Web Marketplaces – Beyond the Silk Road

Authors: Joe Van Buskirk, Simon Wu, Amanda Roxburgh, Raimondo Bruno and Lucinda Burns, National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, University of New South Wales

Never Stand Still | Medicine | National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre

Key findings

- **Four key marketplaces** have emerged in the wake of the Silk Road closure, Agora, Evolution, Silk Road 2.0 and The Marketplace, with many other, smaller marketplaces operating at lower levels.
- **Cannabis and pharmaceuticals** were most commonly sold across all marketplaces, followed by MDMA (3,4-methylenedioxy-N-methylamphetamine), NPS and Cocaine, with slight variations in rank across marketplaces.
- The closure of the Silk Road saw a proliferation of new retailers in alternative marketplaces, many of which have subsequently closed down. Specifically, the previous bulletin monitoring until November 2013 saw **three major marketplaces** emerge in the wake of the Silk Road closure. Since this time over fifteen new marketplaces have emerged and are currently being monitored.
- Substances available on new marketplaces largely **mirrored** those sold on the original Silk Road, cannabis and pharmaceuticals were the most commonly sold substances. Cocaine, MDMA, NPS and methamphetamine followed, with some variation in order across marketplaces.

DRUGS AND THE INTERNET

Van Buskirk, J., Wu, S., Roxburgh, A., Bruno, R. & Burns, L

Introduction

The Drug and New Technologies project (DNeT) provides analysis of trends over time in the availability and type of substances sold via the internet to Australia. The current results report for the time period December 2013 to May 2014.

To date the availability of illicit drugs in Australia has largely been examined through household surveys and interviews with people who use drugs, and indicators such as drug seizures, arrests, analyses of hospital admissions and drug-related deaths. Over the past decade there has been an increasing awareness and interest in online marketplaces as a source for discussion and the purchase of drugs. The advent of the Silk Road in 2011, as an online marketplace, broadened the availability of new psychoactive substances (NPS; classified as synthetic drugs such as NBOMe) and other more conventional illicit substances (e.g., cannabis and MDMA). In the wake of the closure of the Silk Road in October 2014, new internet marketplaces have since emerged to take its place.

Funded by the Australian Government under the Substance Misuse Prevention and Service Improvement Grants Fund

Number of Retailers

Surface Web

The number of retailers on the surface web selling to Australia continued to decline over the current monitoring period (74 retailers in September 2013 to 68 in May 2014) as shown in Table 1.

The surface web appears to be declining in popularity as a means for purchasing substances online.

Table 1 Number of unique Retailers Operating on the Surface Web by Month

Month	Feb-13	Mar-13	Apr-13	May-13	Jun-13	Jul-13	Aug-13	Sep-13	Oct-13	Nov-13	Jan-14	Feb-14	Apr-14	May-14
Number of surface web retailers	99	93	88	80	83	79	76	74	74	72	71	69	68	68

Dark Web Marketplaces

Although the Dark Web marketplaces identified in this bulletin sold mainly illicit substances and NPS, many offered additional products such as erotica, hacking tools, drug paraphernalia and occasionally firearms. In addition, these marketplaces varied in transaction processes, with around half operating on a multi-signature escrow system, with the other half operating on a centralised escrow system. The escrow system is the process of holding funds for a transaction until that transaction is completed and the product delivered, at which point the funds are released. In a centralised escrow system, funds are released when the buyer indicates that the product was received, with funds being stored by the marketplace itself. Therefore, if a marketplace's security is compromised, so too are the funds held in escrow. This was the case with Silk Road 2.0 in February 2013, which most likely caused the decline in retailer numbers around this time (Figure 1). With multi-signature escrow, multiple signatures (encrypted 'keys' used to access funds) are required to release the funds. That is, two out of three participants in the sale (i.e. the buyer, the seller and the marketplace) must provide their specific keys for the funds to be released. The monitored marketplaces and their transaction process are outlined in Table 2.

Table 2 Classification of Monitored Marketplaces

Centralised Escrow Markets		Multisignature Escrow Markets	
Marketplace Name	**Date first monitored**	**Marketplace Name**	**Date first monitored**
Silk Road 2.0	7/11/2013	Evolution	27/02/2014
Pandora	5/12/2013	The Marketplace	20/03/2014
TOR Market	5/12/2013	The Pirate Marketplace	20/03/2014
BlueSky	16/01/2014	BlackBank	20/03/2014
Agora	30/01/2014	TOR Escrow	20/03/2014
DarkBay	20/03/2014	Cloud Nine	4/04/2014
Andromeda	8/05/2014	TOR Bazaar	17/04/2014
		Hydra	17/04/2014

The total number of retailers on each marketplace at each time point for all monitored marketplaces is shown in Figure 1 and Figure 2

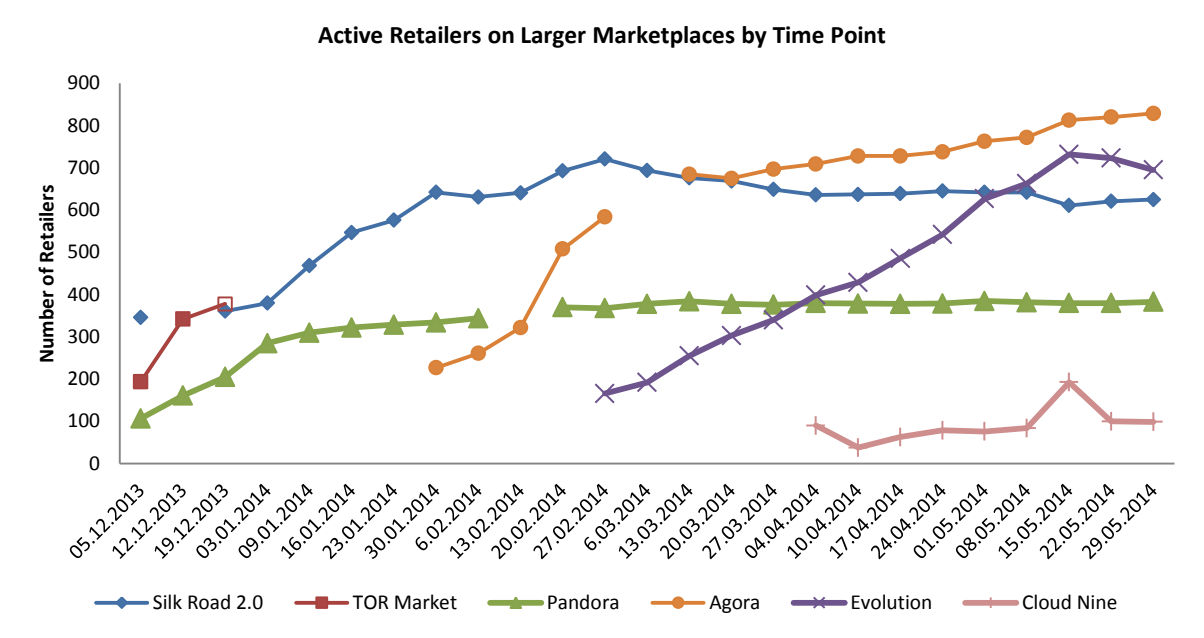


Figure 1: Number of retailers across the largest five marketplaces by time point. NB: missing data points indicate temporary marketplace outages. Empty markers indicate permanent closure of marketplace.

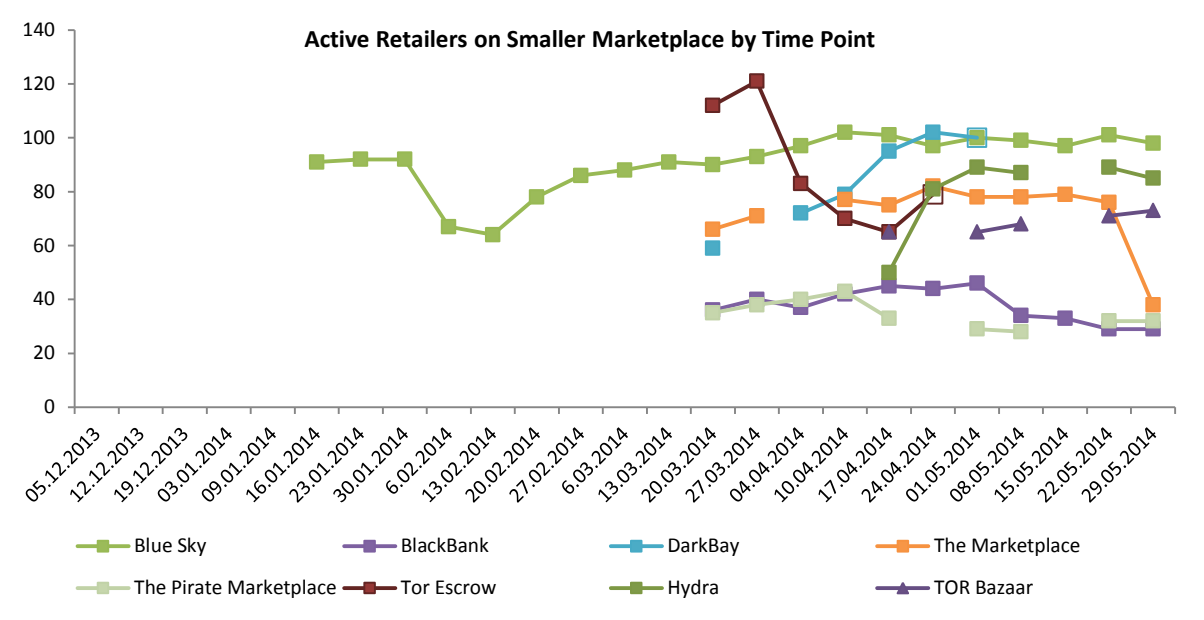


Figure 2: Number of retailers across smaller marketplaces by time point. NB: missing data points indicate temporary marketplace outages. Empty markers indicate permanent closure of marketplace.

The proliferation of new marketplaces in the wake of the Silk Road closure in 2013 has appeared to continue with thirteen new marketplaces identified since December 2013. Specifically, four main marketplaces have emerged, Agora, Evolution, Silk Road 2.0 and Pandora, with eight other marketplaces operating at lower levels, (with less than one hundred active retailers each at the final time point). Although the number of retailers on all four marketplaces initially increased dramatically, only Agora continued to increase over time, with Evolution and Silk Road 2.0 decreasing and Pandora plateauing.

Three marketplaces, TOR Market, DarkBay and TOR Escrow, closed down over the monitoring period: TOR Market was closed due to a security breach; DarkBay merged with current marketplace Andromeda; and TOR Escrow closed due to unknown reasons. For the remaining eight marketplaces still operating at the final data point, retailer numbers largely remained stable across the monitoring period. This represents a deviation from the trends observed in the first two bulletins, in that retailer numbers were observed to continue increasing across the monitoring period up until the marketplace was closed. Changing trends may be partly due to the higher number of marketplaces now operating and therefore higher rate of retailer dispersion and consumer choice. It may also be due to heightened international enforcement and warnings issued about specific marketplaces by online discussion forums. Warnings have previously been issued about security breaches, security vulnerabilities, and practices of marketplace moderators.

Retailers Operating Across Multiple Marketplaces

Table 3 shows the number of retailers operating across multiple marketplaces. Over three quarters (78%) of retailers operated on one monitored marketplace only, with a large proportion of the remaining retailers (13%) operating on two marketplaces. No retailers operated across all 15 marketplaces, with only one retailer operating across 10 marketplaces. As this analysis was performed solely on usernames used on individual marketplaces, it obviously excludes any retailer operating across multiple marketplaces under different usernames. If retailers are operating under different usernames on different marketplaces, it may represent an underestimation of numbers of retailers operating across multiple marketplaces.

Table 3 Number of retailers operating across multiple marketplaces

Number of Marketplaces	# of Retailers Present	Percentage of Total Retailers
10	1	0.03%
9	1	0.03%
8	3	0.10%
7	10	0.32%
6	10	0.32%
5	27	0.86%
4	64	2.03%
3	160	5.07%
2	418	13.26%
1	2459	77.99%
Total Unique Retailers	3153	100%

Substances for Sale

Total Substances Available

Table 4 outlines the substances available from the top five marketplaces by origin (International or Australian) ranked by the number of unique international retailers identified selling each substance. The top three available substances sold by international marketplaces were cannabis, pharmaceuticals and MDMA. This was followed by cocaine, NPS and methamphetamine. Among Australian retailers, MDMA, methamphetamine, Cannabis and pharmaceuticals were the top substances sold.

Table 4: Total number of International and Australian only Retailers operating on the top five marketplaces by substance type.

	International Retailers (including AUS)	AUS Retailers	Proportion of AUS to International Retailers
Substance	n	n	%
Cannabis	1771	109[3]	6%
Pharmaceuticals	1534	107[4]	7%
MDMA	1177	138[1]	12%
Cocaine	902	71	9%
Methamphetamine	835	125[2]	8%
NPS	821	76	15%
LSD	450	29	6%
Illicit Opioids	474	28	6%
Magic Mushrooms	234	17	7%
Ketamine	177	16	9%
PIEDs	154	36	23%
GHB	71	6	8%
Synthetic Cannabinoids	74	3	4%
Weight Loss	33	6	18%
Precursors	20	5	25%
Caffeine	10	0	0%
Total Unique Retailers	4295	488	11%

NB: Red superscripted numbers indicate the ranking of substances sold by Australian Retailers.

In contrast to previous bulletins, the 'International' category in refers to all retailers operating on these marketplaces, and not just those listing Australia as an acceptable shipping destination. As not all marketplaces clearly listed information on acceptable shipping destinations, such as Agora, it was decided to instead quantify all active retailers on any monitored marketplace. Using these criteria the rankings of available substances largely mirrored the ranking from retailers shipping to Australia with only slight variations. Given this we have included all retailers in Table 4 so as to not exclude key marketplaces such as Agora from the analysis. Taken together, Australian retailers occupy 11% of the top five dark web marketplaces.

NPS Available from All Retailers

5 details the ten most commonly sold NPS on the top five marketplaces. The categories of 2C-x, NBOMe Family and 5-MeO Family (5-methoxy-substituted) were collapsed for clarity as many of these drugs (e.g. 2C-B, 2C-I, 2C-E in the 2C-x category) are sold in the same form, and are advertised as having similar effects. Drugs from the 2C-x and NBOMe and DMT categories were the most commonly sold, with slight variations across marketplaces, followed by methylone and methoxetamine (Table 5). Synthetic Cannabinoids were collapsed into one category given the large number of variations of these that exist. Additionally, synthetic cannabinoids were often sold as blends, consisting of different combinations of many chemicals, making classification more complex. Although forum discussions appear to reveal preferences among users for a number of specific substances, collapsing synthetic cannabinoids provides the most accurate estimation of their popularity on these marketplaces.

Table 5: Number of retailers from the top five marketplaces selling the ten most common NPS.

	Number of All Retailers	
Substance	n	%
2C-x	173	20%
DMT	170	20%
NBOMe	133	16%
Methylone	113	13%
Synthetic	74	9%
MDA	73	9%
Methoxetamine	66	8%
Ethylone	52	6%
5-Meo Family	42	5%
Dox	44	5%
Mescaline	38	5%
Total	844	

Implications

- Internet drug markets are highly dynamic. Although three monitored marketplaces closed over the six-month monitoring period, many other marketplaces remained open and new marketplaces opened.

- The combined number of active retailers across all marketplaces far exceeds those seen on the original Silk Road.

- The vast majority of retailers were operating on a single marketplace suggesting retailers choose to operate with a smaller customer base rather than increasing their reach by operating on multiple marketplaces.

- Substances available from Australian retailers varied slightly from those available from international retailers. Specifically, a higher proportion of Australian retailers were selling MDMA and methamphetamine, rather than pharmaceuticals and NPS. This is reflected in the most recent Illicit Drug Data Report from the Australian Crime Commission showing the number of detections of clandestine methamphetamine laboratories is at an all-time high.

- The number of retailers operating on the surface web has continued to decline and may be part due to the increasing implementation of domestic and international legislation controlling these substances. This suggests dark web marketplaces, as opposed to surface web stores, are the preferred method of purchasing drugs online, and future monitoring of these marketplaces will reveal whether this trend will continue.

2014 Contacts

Chief Investigator
IDRS and EDRS
Dr Lucy Burns
National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre
University of New South Wales
Ph: (02) 9385 0258
Email: l.burns@unsw.edu.au

National
IDRS and EDRS
Ms Natasha Sindicich / Ms Jenny Stafford
National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre
University of New South Wales
Ph: (02) 9385 0191 / (02) 9385 0244
Email: n.sindicich@unsw.edu.au
j.stafford@unsw.edu.au

New South Wales
IDRS
Mr David Mckell
National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre
University of New South Wales
Ph: (02) 9385 0407
Email: d.mckell@unsw.edu.au

EDRS
Mr Gavin Entwistle
National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre
University of New South Wales
Ph: (02) 9385 0161
Email: g.entwistle@unsw.edu.au

Australian Capital Territory
IDRS
Ms Kerryn Butler
National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre
University of New South Wales
Ph: (02) 9385 0187
Email: kerryn.butler@unsw.edu.au

EDRS
Ms Kerryn Butler
National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre
University of New South Wales
Ph: (02) 9385 0187
Email: kerryn.butler@unsw.edu.au

Victoria
IDRS
Ms Shelley Cogger
Burnet Institute Health
Ph (03) 8506 2394
Email: shelley@burnet.ed.au

Prof Paul Dietze
Burnet Institute
Ph: (03) 9282 2134
Email: pauld@burnet.edu.au

EDRS
Mr Arthur Truong
Burnet Institute
Ph (03) 9282 2258
Email: atruong@burnet.edu.au

Prof Paul Dietze
Burnet Institute
Ph: (03) 9282 2134
Email: pauld@burnet.edu.au

Tasmania
IDRS
A/Prof. Raimondo Bruno
School of Medicine (Psychology)
University of Tasmania
Ph: (03) 6226 2240
Email: raimondo.bruno@utas.edu.au

Ms Barbara de Graaff
School of Medicine (Psychology)
University of Tasmania
Ph: (03) 6226 2945
Email: barbara.degraaff@utas.edu.au

EDRS
A/Prof. Raimondo Bruno
School of Medicine (Psychology)
University of Tasmania
Ph: (03) 6226 2240
Email: raimondo.bruno@utas.edu.au

Dr Allison Matthews
School of Medicine (Psychology)
University of Tasmania
Ph: (03) 6226 7236
Email: allison.matthews@utas.edu.au

South Australia

IDRS

Ms Rachel Sutherland
National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre
University of New South Wales
Ph: (02) 9385 0256
Email: rachels@unsw.edu.au

EDRS

Ms Rachel Sutherland
National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre
University of New South Wales
Ph: (02) 9385 0256
Email: rachels@unsw.edu.au

Western Australia

IDRS

Prof Simon Lenton
National Drug Research Institute
Curtin University
Phone: (08) 9266 1603
Mob: 0417 957 910
E-mail: s.lenton@curtin.edu.au

EDRS

Prof Simon Lenton
National Drug Research Institute
Curtin University
Phone: (08) 9266 1603
Mob: 0417 957 910
E-mail: s.lenton@curtin.edu.au

Northern Territory

IDRS

Mr Chris Moon
NT Department of Health
M: 0427 217 998
Email: chris.moon@nt.gov.au

EDRS

Ms Elizabeth Whittaker
National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre
University of New South Wales
Ph: (02) 9385 0254
Email: e.whittaker@unsw.edu.au

Queensland

IDRS

Dr Fairlie McIlwraith
Queensland Alcohol & Drug Research and Education Centre
Tel: (07) 3365 5443
Email: f.mcilwraith@sph.uq.edu.au

A/Prof. Rosa Alati
Queensland Alcohol & Drug Research and Education Centre
University of Queensland
Ph: (07) 3365 5281
Email: r.alati@sph.uq.edu.au

EDRS

Dr Fairlie McIlwraith
Queensland Alcohol & Drug Research and Education Centre
Tel: (07) 3365 5443
Email: f.mcilwraith@sph.uq.edu.au

A/Prof. Rosa Alati
Queensland Alcohol & Drug Research and Education Centre
University of Queensland
Ph: (07) 3365 5281
Email: r.alati@sph.uq.edu.au

National Illicit Data Indicators Project (NIDIP)

Ms Amanda Roxburgh
National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre
University of New South Wales
Ph: (02) 9385 0275
Email: a.roxburgh@unsw.edu.au

Drugs and New Technologies (DNeT)

Ms Amanda Roxburgh
National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre
University of New South Wales
Ph: (02) 9385 0275
Email: a.roxburgh@unsw.edu.au