

Prepared by Emma Black, Jennifer Stafford and Louisa Degenhardt, National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre

(Suggested citation: Black, E., Stafford, J. & Degenhardt, L. (2007). An overview of the 2007 IDRS: the Injecting Drug User survey findings. *Drug Trends Bulletin*, October 2007. Sydney: National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, University of New South Wales.)

Funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing

Key Points

- Heroin remained the most commonly reported drug of choice for injecting drug user (IDU) participants, and reports of use have increased since 2006. There remain large jurisdictional differences in markets (price, purity and availability) and use patterns of heroin.
- Use of any form of methamphetamine (mainly speed, base and ice/crystal, but also including liquid methamphetamine) declined slightly across the majority of jurisdictions between 2006 and 2007. Nationally, frequency of use among users of any form of methamphetamine, including the proportion of daily users, remained stable. Again, as with the majority of drugs investigated by the IDRS, jurisdictional variations were seen in both prevalence and frequency of use. Methamphetamine remained readily available to this group and reports on price and perceived purity varied by jurisdiction.
- NSW remained the only jurisdiction where sizeable numbers of participants reported recent cocaine use and were able to provide information on price, purity and availability. Use of cocaine in Sydney, NSW remained stable, as did reports of price, purity and availability. In other jurisdictions use remained low and sporadic.
- The cannabis market (price, perceived potency and availability) remained stable. The use of cannabis by participants remained common and frequency of use among users remained high, usually daily or near-daily.
- Extra-medical use and injection of pharmaceutical preparations continued to occur, with jurisdictional differences in patterns of use observed.

An overview of the 2007 IDRS: the Injecting Drug User survey findings

Introduction

The key findings of the 2007 Illicit Drug Reporting System (IDRS) injecting drug user (IDU) surveys are presented in this bulletin. The IDRS monitors emerging trends in the use, price, purity and availability of heroin, methamphetamine, cocaine and cannabis. In addition to a survey of regular injecting drug users (IDU), 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. This is the eighth year that all three components of the IDRS were conducted in every state and territory in Australia.

This bulletin contains a summary of the main findings from the IDU survey component of the 2007 national IDRS, in which 909 participants were recruited (NSW n=153; VIC n=150; QLD n=119; NT n=106; ACT n=101; TAS and SA, n=100 each, WA n=80).

Regular injecting drug users (aka people who inject drugs, or 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 IDU 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.

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 IDRS *Drug Trends* annual reports, which will be available through NDARC in early 2008. 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: 'Prevalence' data in this bulletin refer 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. 'Recent' refers to the six months preceding interview. Furthermore, due to rounding of percentages, some columns may not add to 100%.

National Overview

Heroin

Heroin remained the most commonly reported drug of choice for IDU participants (52%). In 2007, just over half (59%) of the national sample reported use in the preceding six months on a median of 72 days (i.e. three times per week). Daily use was reported by 14% of the national sample (9% in 2006). Compared to 2006, an increase in proportions reporting recent heroin use was observed across several jurisdictions, most noticeably in NSW, VIC and SA. By contrast, use in the NT and TAS remained low and decreased slightly. Recent use (i.e. on one occasion or more in the preceding six months) was most commonly reported in NSW, VIC and the ACT. The frequency of heroin use among these users also increased in most jurisdictions. The price of a gram or cap of heroin remained relatively stable across jurisdictions. Heroin was cheapest in NSW, VIC and the ACT, and availability appeared to have increased somewhat compared to 2006 (cf. the NT and TAS where few people were able to comment; indicative of low availability and use). While subjective, reports suggested that purity may have increased slightly compared to 2006, with a decrease in those reporting it to be of 'low' purity and a corresponding increase in those reporting it to be of 'medium' purity in 2007. However, the majority continued to rate it as 'low', suggesting that even if purity has indeed risen, it is still not of high quality.

Methamphetamine

The IDRS distinguishes between the three main forms of methamphetamine – methamphetamine powder ('speed'); methamphetamine base ('base'); and crystalline methamphetamine ('crystal' or 'ice'). It also collects use data on liquid methamphetamine; however as use remains low, specific details on this form are not reported here. In 2007, 21% of participants nominated methamphetamine as their drug of choice, a figure which has remained stable over the past several years. A decrease was seen across most jurisdictions in recent use of ice/crystal and base methamphetamine, while use of speed powder tended to remain fairly stable. Nationally, frequency of use of any form of methamphetamine (by users) remained stable at a median of 24 days, i.e. weekly use, while the use of each form was reported on a median of 12 days or less each. The proportion of all participants who reported daily methamphetamine use was stable at 5% nationally (6% in 2006). Prices for speed powder, base and ice/crystal varied across jurisdictions. Overall, the three main forms of methamphetamine (speed powder, base and ice/crystal) were generally considered 'easy' or 'very easy' to obtain. Of the three forms, ice/crystal was the most often reported to be of 'high' purity, base was 'medium' or 'high' and speed powder was commonly reported to be 'low' or 'medium'.

Cocaine

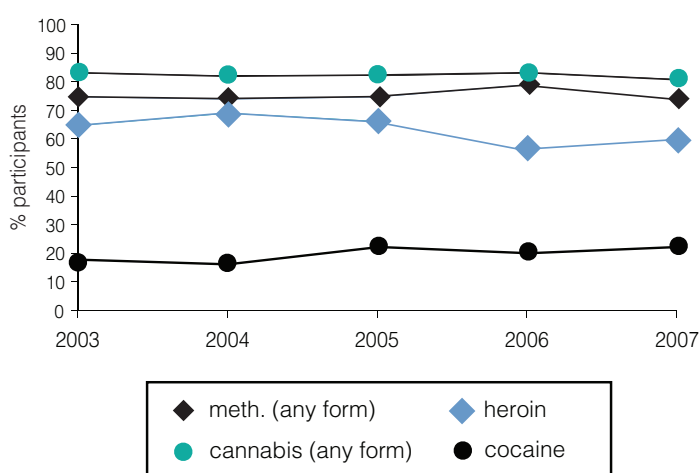
Similar to previous years (2003-2006), the prevalence of cocaine use in the six months preceding interview remained at 22% or less in all jurisdictions except NSW where it was substantially higher (63%). The frequency of cocaine use among those who had recently used remained stable in NSW (median days of use = 20, i.e. just under once per week), while remaining low and sporadic in all other jurisdictions. 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. Patterns of use of this drug are markedly different to those observed in the Ecstasy and Related Drugs Reporting System (EDRS; see NDARC website for further details: www.ndarc.med.unsw.edu.au and click on 'drug trends').

Cannabis

As in previous years of the IDRS, cannabis use among this group was common in all jurisdictions. Frequency of cannabis use tended to be daily or near-daily. Cannabis remained readily available in all jurisdictions. 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 potency of hydroponic cannabis continued to be rated as 'high' and bush cannabis as 'medium'.

For more detailed information on the price, purity/potency, availability and prevalence of use by this group in each jurisdiction please see 'Jurisdictional Overviews' section.

Figure 1: Prevalence of use of heroin, cocaine, methamphetamine and cannabis by participants in the six months preceding interview, Australia, 2003-2007



Pharmaceuticals

Morphine remained the most commonly injected pharmaceutical opioid, and reports of this behaviour remained highest in the NT and TAS, the jurisdictions where heroin has traditionally been the least available. Morphine and oxycodone injection increased nationally over the past two years, from 41% in 2005 to 50% in 2007 (morphine) and 17% in 2005 to 27% in 2007 (oxycodone). These figures varied by jurisdiction, and may be influenced by the availability, price and purity of these drugs relative to heroin. Frequency of use, as with all extra-medical use of opioid medication, remained sporadic.

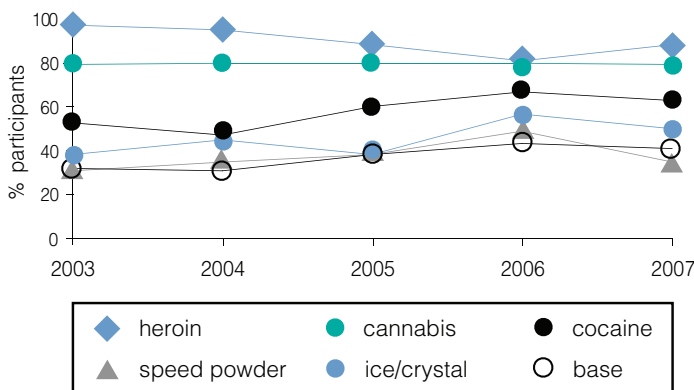
Use of benzodiazepines (typically by swallowing) remained common among this sample at 66% (figure includes benzodiazepines used as prescribed). By contrast, benzodiazepine injection was relatively uncommon, a behaviour reported by 11% of the national sample. This was most often reported in TAS (29%) and the NT (20%). Frequency of injection among those who had injected remained relatively low at a median of six days nationally (i.e. once a month).

Jurisdictional Overviews

New South Wales (Sydney)

Use

Figure 2: Prevalence of use of heroin, cocaine, methamphetamine and cannabis by participants in the six months preceding interview, NSW, 2003-2007



Price

Table 1: Median prices, NSW, 2006-2007

	2006	2007
Heroin		
Heroin (cap)	\$50	\$50
Heroin (gram)	\$300	\$300
Methamphetamine		
Speed powder (point)	\$50	\$50
Base (point)	\$50	\$50
Ice/crystal (point)	\$50	\$50
Speed powder (gram)	\$100	\$65*
Base (gram)	\$200	\$200*
Ice/crystal (gram)	\$325	\$350*
Cocaine		
Cocaine (cap)	\$50	\$50
Cocaine (gram)	\$300	\$300
Cannabis		
Hydro (gram)	\$20	\$20
Bush (gram)	\$20*	\$20
Hydro (ounce)	\$285	\$290
Bush (ounce)	\$200*	\$200

* Interpret with caution (small numbers commenting; n<10)

Availability and Purity/Potency

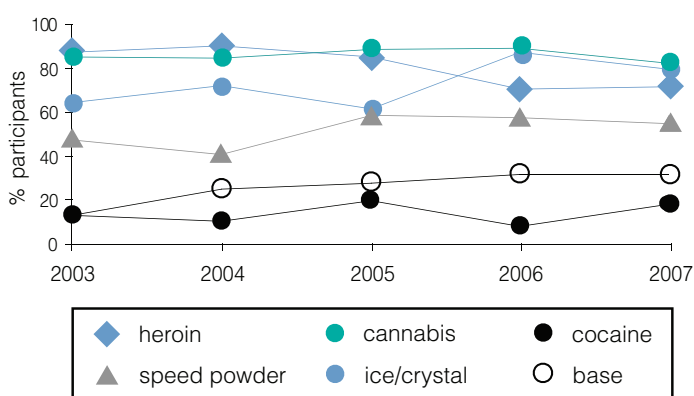
Table 2: Perceptions of current availability and purity/potency of heroin, methamphetamine, cocaine and cannabis by participants who commented, NSW, 2007

	Heroin (%)	Methamphetamine (%)		Cocaine (%)	Cannabis (%)		
		Speed powder	Base		Ice/crystal	Hydro	Bush
Availability	n=141	n=77	n=68	n=83	n=99	n=109	n=61
Very easy	44	34	40	53	38	65	18
Easy	43	40	49	39	43	31	38
Difficult	14	22	10	6	18	4	43
Very difficult	0	4	2	2	0	0	2
Purity/potency	n=139	n=67	n=66	n=78	n=95	n=108	n=62
Low	48	34	12	27	23	3	27
Medium	37	43	56	27	44	30	48
High	4	9	21	32	24	60	15
Fluctuates	12	13	11	14	8	7	10

Australian Capital Territory (Canberra)

Use

Figure 3: Prevalence of use of heroin, cocaine, methamphetamine and cannabis by participants in the six months preceding interview, ACT, 2003-2007



Price

Table 3: Median prices, ACT, 2006-2007

	2006	2007
Heroin		
Heroin (cap)	\$50	\$50
Heroin (gram)	\$340*	\$300
Methamphetamine		
Speed powder (point)	\$50	\$50
Base (point)	\$50	\$50
Ice/crystal (point)	\$50	\$50
Speed powder (gram)	\$175*	\$235
Base (gram)	\$250*	\$100*
Ice/crystal (gram)	\$410	\$380
Cocaine		
Cocaine (cap)	[no purchases reported]	\$55*
Cocaine (gram)	[no purchases reported]	\$325*
Cannabis		
Hydro (gram)	\$20	\$20
Bush (gram)	\$15	\$20
Hydro (ounce)	\$300	\$300
Bush (ounce)	\$190	\$240

* Interpret with caution (small numbers commenting; n<10)

Availability and Purity/Potency

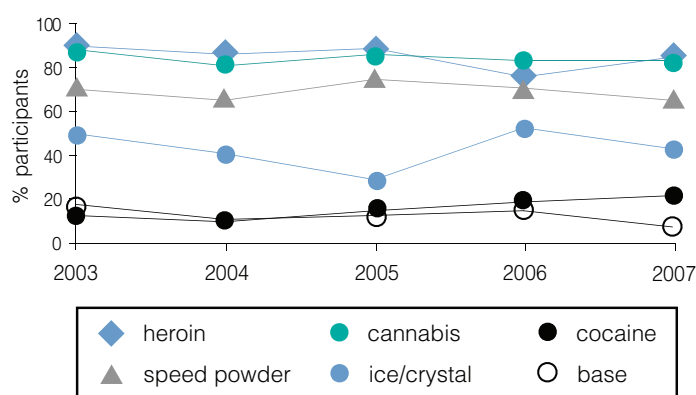
Table 4: Perceptions of current availability and purity/potency of heroin, methamphetamine, cocaine and cannabis by participants who commented, ACT, 2007

	Heroin (%)	Methamphetamine (%)		Cocaine (%)	Cannabis (%)		
		Speed powder	Base		Hydro	Bush	
Availability	n=73	n=60	n=24	n=80	n=11	n=75	n=63
Very easy	43	42	33	45	9	47	27
Easy	49	43	38	43	27	48	46
Difficult	8	13	29	11	64	4	24
Very difficult	0	2	0	1	0	1	3
Purity/potency	n=71	n=58	n=24	n=78	n=12	n=75	n=63
Low	34	40	17	22	8	1	19
Medium	39	38	33	35	42	25	48
High	17	14	38	31	42	68	24
Fluctuates	10	9	13	13	8	5	10

Victoria (Melbourne)

Use

Figure 4: Prevalence of use of heroin, cocaine, methamphetamine and cannabis by participants in the six months preceding interview, VIC, 2003-2007



Price

Table 5: Median prices, VIC, 2006-2007

	2006	2007
Heroin		
Heroin (cap)	\$40	\$50
Heroin (gram)	\$350	\$350
Methamphetamine		
Speed powder (point)	\$35	\$50
Base (point)	\$50*	[no purchases reported]
Ice/crystal (point)	\$50	\$50
Speed powder (gram)	\$200	\$200
Base (gram)	\$180*	\$150*
Ice/crystal (gram)	\$200*	\$350*
Cocaine		
Cocaine (cap)	[no purchases reported]	[no purchases reported]
Cocaine (gram)	\$400*	\$375*
Cannabis		
Hydro (gram)	\$20	\$20
Bush (gram)	\$10*	\$20
Hydro (ounce)	\$200	\$240
Bush (ounce)	[no purchases reported]	\$240*

* Interpret with caution (small numbers commenting; n<10)

Availability and Purity/Potency

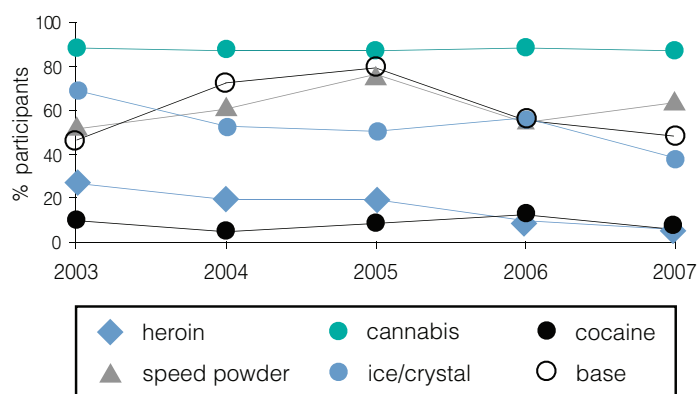
Table 6: Perceptions of current availability and purity/potency of heroin, methamphetamine, cocaine and cannabis by participants who commented, VIC, 2007

	Heroin (%)	Methamphetamine (%)		Cocaine (%)	Cannabis (%)		
		Speed powder	Base		Ice/crystal	Hydro	Bush
Availability	n=114	n=58	n=1	n=22	n=4	n=65	n=23
Very easy	45	28	0	27	50	51	26
Easy	49	57	100	32	25	43	44
Difficult	6	16	0	36	25	6	30
Very difficult	0	0	0	5	0	0	0
Purity/potency	n=114	n=58	n=1	n=22	n=5	n=64	n=25
Low	42	38	0	23	20	0	24
Medium	36	26	0	14	20	30	48
High	13	16	100	55	20	61	28
Fluctuates	9	21	0	9	40	9	0

Tasmania (Hobart)

Use

Figure 5: Prevalence of use of heroin, cocaine, methamphetamine and cannabis by participants in the six months preceding interview, TAS, 2003-2007



Price

Table 7: Median prices, TAS, 2006-2007

	2006	2007
Heroin		
Heroin (cap)	[no purchases reported]	\$50*
Heroin (gram)	[no purchases reported]	[no purchases reported]
Methamphetamine		
Speed powder (point)	\$50	\$50
Base (point)	\$50	\$50
Ice/crystal (point)	\$50	\$50
Speed powder (gram)	\$300*	\$300*
Base (gram)	\$300	\$300*
Ice/crystal (gram)	\$300*	\$340*
Cocaine		
Cocaine (cap)	[no purchases reported]	[no purchases reported]
Cocaine (gram)	[no purchases reported]	[no purchases reported]
Cannabis		
Hydro (gram)	\$25	\$25
Bush (gram)	\$15*	\$25
Hydro (ounce)	\$250	\$250
Bush (ounce)	\$170	\$200*

* Interpret with caution (small numbers commenting; n<10)

Availability and Purity/Potency

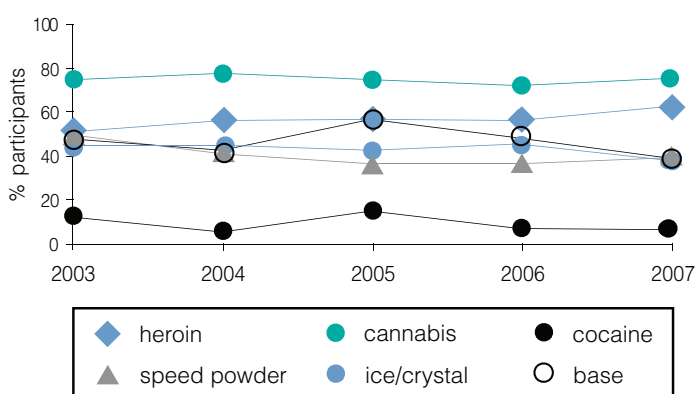
Table 8: Perceptions of current availability and purity/potency of heroin, methamphetamine, cocaine and cannabis by participants who commented, TAS, 2007

	Heroin (%)	Methamphetamine (%)			Cocaine (%)	Cannabis (%)	
		Speed powder	Base	Ice/crystal		Hydro	Bush
Availability	n=3	n=63	n=43	n=29	n=2	n=69	n=59
Very easy	0	44	21	35	0	51	41
Easy	100	48	65	35	0	46	56
Difficult	0	8	14	21	0	3	3
Very difficult	0	0	0	10	100	0	0
Purity/potency	n=2	n=64	n=44	n=32	n=1	n=70	n=57
Low	0	38	25	13	0	3	28
Medium	50	25	30	25	100	34	54
High	50	13	27	53	0	56	4
Fluctuates	0	25	18	9	0	7	14

South Australia (Adelaide)

Use

Figure 6: Prevalence of use of heroin, cocaine, methamphetamine and cannabis by participants in the six months preceding interview, SA, 2003-2007



Price

Table 9: Median prices, SA, 2006-2007

	2006	2007
Heroin		
Heroin (cap)	\$50	\$100
Heroin (gram)	\$400*	\$390*
Methamphetamine		
Speed powder (point)	\$50	\$50
Base (point)	\$50	\$50
Ice/crystal (point)	\$50	\$50
Speed powder (gram)	\$150*	\$175*
Base (gram)	\$200	\$200*
Ice/crystal (gram)	\$215*	\$220*
Cocaine		
Cocaine (cap)	[no purchases reported]	[no purchases reported]
Cocaine (gram)	\$400*	\$340*
Cannabis		
Hydro (approx. 2.5g)	\$25*	\$25
Bush (approx. 2.5g)	\$25*	\$25
Hydro (ounce)	\$200	\$200*
Bush (ounce)	\$160*	\$180*

* Interpret with caution (small numbers commenting; n<10)

Availability and Purity/Potency

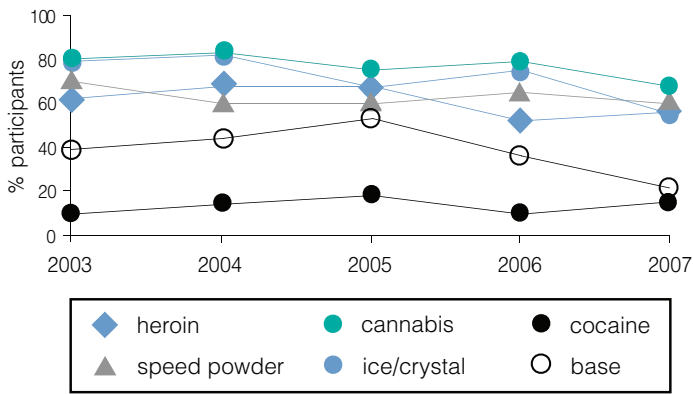
Table 10: Perceptions of current availability and purity/potency of heroin, methamphetamine, cocaine and cannabis by participants who commented, SA, 2007

	Heroin (%)	Methamphetamine (%)			Cocaine (%)	Cannabis (%)	
		Speed powder	Base	Ice/crystal		Hydro	Bush
Availability	n=58	n=28	n=23	n=22	n=5	n=31	n=16
Very easy	50	71	39	59	20	62	44
Easy	45	21	48	27	20	26	13
Difficult	5	4	9	9	40	13	25
Very difficult	0	4	4	5	20	0	19
Purity/potency	n=56	n=28	n=22	n=21	n=4	n=30	n=16
Low	46	21	9	14	25	3	19
Medium	36	29	36	33	50	20	44
High	14	21	32	52	25	73	25
Fluctuates	4	29	23	0	0	3	13

Western Australia (Perth)

Use

Figure 7: Prevalence of use of heroin, cocaine, methamphetamine and cannabis by participants in the six months preceding interview, WA, 2003-2007



Price

Table 11: Median prices, WA, 2006-2007

	2006	2007
Heroin		
Heroin (cap)	\$50*	\$50*
Heroin (gram)	\$550	\$650*
Methamphetamine		
Speed powder (point)	\$50	\$50
Base (point)	\$50	\$50*
Ice/crystal (point)	\$50	\$50
Speed powder (gram)	\$300	\$400*
Base (gram)	\$325*	\$175*
Ice/crystal (gram)	\$400	\$400*
Cocaine		
Cocaine (cap)	[no purchases reported]	[no purchases reported]
Cocaine (gram)	\$350*	\$400*
Cannabis		
Hydro (gram)	\$25	\$22.50*
Bush (gram)	\$25*	\$10*
Hydro (ounce)	\$280	\$300*
Bush (ounce)	\$200	\$225*

* Interpret with caution (small numbers commenting; n<10)

Availability and Purity/Potency

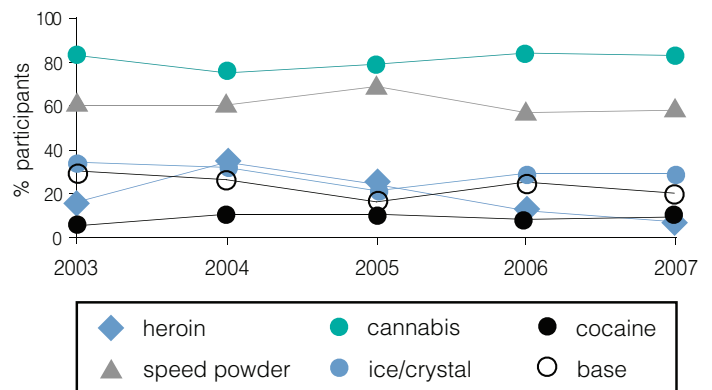
Table 12: Perceptions of current availability of heroin, methamphetamine, cocaine and cannabis by participants who commented, WA, 2007

	Heroin (%)	Methamphetamine (%)		Cocaine (%)	Cannabis (%)		
		Speed powder	Base		Ice/crystal	Hydro	Bush
Availability	n=51	n=41	n=14	n=36	n=7	n=22	n=18
Very easy	28	44	36	44	0	36	33
Easy	45	37	21	39	43	41	44
Difficult	20	17	43	17	29	18	17
Very difficult	8	2	0	0	29	5	6
Purity/potency	n=51	n=42	n=15	n=35	n=5	n=22	n=18
Low	47	33	13	23	40	5	22
Medium	28	26	27	29	0	14	61
High	12	14	40	34	60	68	17
Fluctuates	14	26	20	14	0	14	0

Northern Territory (Darwin)

Use

Figure 8: Prevalence of use of heroin, cocaine, methamphetamine and cannabis by participants in the six months preceding interview, NT, 2003-2007



Price

Table 13: Median prices, NT, 2006-2007

	2006	2007
Heroin		
Heroin (cap)	\$50*	\$50*
Heroin (gram)	\$600*	\$150*
Methamphetamine		
Speed powder (point)	\$60	\$50
Base (point)	\$60	50*
Ice/crystal (point)	\$90	\$100
Speed powder (gram)	\$250	\$300
Base (gram)	\$250*	\$300*
Ice/crystal (gram)	\$800*	\$400*
Cocaine		
Cocaine (cap)	\$125*	[no purchases reported]
Cocaine (gram)	\$250*	\$200*
Cannabis		
Hydro (gram)	\$30	\$30
Bush (gram)	\$25*	\$30
Hydro (ounce)	\$300	\$350
Bush (ounce)	\$200*	\$200*

* Interpret with caution (small numbers commenting; n<10)

Availability and Purity/Potency

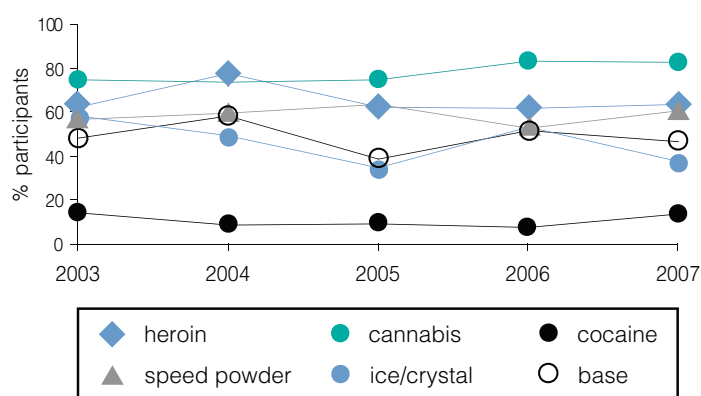
Table 14: Perceptions of current availability and purity/potency of heroin, methamphetamine, cocaine and cannabis by participants who commented, NT, 2007

	Heroin (%)	Methamphetamine (%)			Cocaine (%)	Cannabis (%)	
		Speed powder	Base	Ice/crystal		Hydro	Bush
Availability	n=7	n=48	n=11	n=20	n=6	n=63	n=28
Very easy	0	27	0	25	0	40	21
Easy	0	56	55	35	17	24	21
Difficult	57	13	36	35	33	29	57
Very difficult	43	4	9	5	50	8	0
Purity/potency	n=7	n=50	n=13	n=20	n=6	n=62	n=29
Low	86	56	15	5	0	8	17
Medium	14	30	54	30	67	36	66
High	0	4	31	65	17	52	14
Fluctuates	0	10	0	0	17	5	3

Queensland (Brisbane)

Use

Figure 9: Prevalence of use of heroin, cocaine, methamphetamine and cannabis by participants in the six months preceding interview, QLD, 2003-2007



Price

Table 15: Median prices, QLD, 2006-2007

	2006	2007
Heroin		
Heroin (cap)	\$50	\$50
Heroin (gram)	\$400	\$400
Methamphetamine		
Speed powder (point)	\$50	\$50
Base (point)	\$50	\$50
Ice/crystal (point)	\$50	\$50
Speed powder (gram)	\$200	\$200
Base (gram)	\$200	\$200*
Ice/crystal (gram)	\$275	\$275
Cocaine		
Cocaine (cap)	\$50*	\$75*
Cocaine (gram)	[no purchases reported]	\$350*
Cannabis		
Hydro (gram)	\$25	\$25
Bush (gram)	\$20*	\$20
Hydro (ounce)	\$290	\$300
Bush (ounce)	\$250*	\$200

* Interpret with caution (small numbers commenting; n<10)

Availability and Purity/Potency

Table 16: Perceptions of current availability of heroin, methamphetamine, cocaine and cannabis by participants who commented, QLD, 2007

	Heroin (%)	Methamphetamine (%)			Cocaine (%)	Cannabis (%)	
		Speed powder	Base	Ice/crystal		Hydro	Bush
Availability	n=72	n=67	n=46	n=34	n=14	n=80	n=47
Very easy	33	46	50	35	7	51	19
Easy	49	43	35	47	14	36	32
Difficult	18	8	13	18	50	11	45
Very difficult	0	3	2	0	29	1	4
Purity/potency	n=70	n=68	n=45	n=34	n=12	n=77	n=40
Low	60	26	18	6	42	4	13
Medium	21	35	22	35	42	38	53
High	7	15	24	47	17	49	23
Fluctuates	11	25	36	12	0	9	13

CONCLUSIONS

- Increases were seen in the use of heroin in jurisdictions with traditionally larger heroin markets, i.e. NSW, VIC and SA in 2007 relative to 2006. In 2006 some of the lowest use patterns were recorded in the IDRS. Reports of availability and perceived purity suggested that these had both increased somewhat compared to 2006, although purity was still most commonly reported to be 'low'. Furthermore, there was no indication of levels returning to those reported prior to the heroin shortage in 2001^[1,2].
- IDU participants continued to use all three main forms of methamphetamine, with the prevalence of use of each form varying by jurisdiction. Decreases were observed in the prevalence of base and ice/crystal use. A slight decrease in the overall frequency of use was reported across the majority of jurisdictions, although the proportion of daily users remained stable at around 5% of all participants nationally.
- NSW continued to be the only jurisdiction where a large proportion of participants reported recent cocaine use. Patterns of cocaine use differ markedly to those reported in the EDRS.
- The cannabis market (price, potency and availability) remained stable. The use of cannabis remained common among the majority of participants, with daily or near-daily use often reported.

- The injection of pharmaceutical opioids is more commonly reported in jurisdictions where heroin has traditionally been difficult to obtain. Nationally, morphine remained the most commonly reported opioid injected by this group and an increase in morphine and oxycodone injection have been reported over the past two years. This may be related, at least in part, to varying quality of heroin. The frequency of this behaviour occurred on a typically infrequent basis. Benzodiazepine use (but not typically injection) was common.

Participating researchers and research centres

A/Prof. Louisa Degenhardt, Emma Black, Jennifer Stafford, Natasha Sindicich and Gabrielle Campbell, National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (National, NSW & ACT)

Brendan Quinn, Heidi Strickland and Rebecca Jenkinson, Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre Inc. (VIC)

Barbara de Graaff and Dr Raimondo Bruno, University of Tasmania (TAS)

Robyn Vial, Dr Nancy White, and A/Prof. Robert Ali, Drug and Alcohol Services South Australia (SA)

James Fetherston and A/Prof. Simon Lenton, National Drug Research Institute (WA)

Chris Moon and Tania Davidson, Department of Health and Community Services (NT)

Meg Richardson and Dr Stuart Kinner, Queensland Alcohol and Drug Research and Education Centre (QLD)

Other acknowledgements

The regular injecting drug users (IDU, or PWID) and key experts who took part

The agencies and people who assisted with interviewing and indicator data

The funders, the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing

References

- [1] Topp et al. (2001) Australian Drug Trends 2000: Findings of the Illicit Drug Reporting System (IDRS). NDARC Monograph 47. Sydney: National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, University of New South Wales.
- [2] Degenhardt, Day, & Hall (eds; 2004). The causes, course and consequences of the heroin shortage in Australia. NDARC Monograph 53. Sydney: National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, University of New South Wales.

These reports are available in full on the NDARC website, www.ndarc.med.unsw.edu.au (click on 'Drug Trends').