In 2019, 100 people from the Australian Capital Territory participated in IDRS interviews. The mean age in 2019 was 44, and 74% identified as male. In the 2019 sample, 90% were unemployed and 9% had no fixed address.

The three most commonly injected drugs were heroin, crystal methamphetamine and powder methamphetamine.

ACT IDRS participant’s knowledge of the take-home naloxone program.

45% of those who had completed naloxone training, 45% had used naloxone to resuscitate someone who had overdosed.

In the ACT IDRS sample, 7% said they had been resuscitated with naloxone by someone who had been trained through the take-home program.

Nearly all (99%) reported using one of more drugs (including alcohol and tobacco) on the day preceding interview.

Of those that had sex in the past 6 months, 33% reported that alcohol and/or other drugs impaired their ability to negotiate their wishes.

49% of ACT IDRS participants reported that they were currently in drug treatment.

In 2019, 8% of the ACT IDRS sample reported receptive needle sharing, and 11% reported distributive needle sharing.

In 2019, 47% reported to have re-used their own needles (37% in 2018).

18% of ACT IDRS participants reported injecting in a public place in 2019.

In 2019, almost half (48%) of the ACT sample reported having an injection-related health issue in the month preceding interview.
HEROIN

77% of ACT IDRS participants reported using heroin in the past 6 months. Of those who had recently consumed heroin, more than three in four (77%) used it weekly. Of those who could comment, 81% perceived heroin to be ‘easy’ or ‘very easy’ to obtain in 2019 (91% in 2018).

METHAMPHETAMINE

79% of ACT 2019 IDRS participants reported past 6 month use of any methamphetamine. Of the entire sample, 27% had recently consumed powder, and 77% crystal methamphetamine. Injection was the main route of administration for powder (96%), crystal (97%) and base (100%) among recent consumers. Of those who could comment 93% perceived crystal methamphetamine to be ‘easy’ or ‘very easy’ to obtain in 2019.

PHARMACEUTICAL OPIOIDS

Past 6 month use of non-prescribed morphine was stable at 11% in the 2019 IDRS sample (10% in 2018). Past 6 month use of non-prescribed fentanyl was stable at 10% in the 2019 IDRS sample (6% in 2018). Past 6 month use of non-prescribed methadone was stable at 15% in the 2019 IDRS sample (13% in 2018). Past 6 month use of non-prescribed oxycodone was stable at 14% in the 2019 IDRS sample (10% in 2018).

CANNABIS

79% of ACT IDRS participants reported using cannabis in the past 6 months. Of those who had consumed cannabis recently, 56% reported daily use. Of people who had consumed cannabis in the last 6 months, 100% had smoked it. Of those who could comment high percentages perceived bush and hydro to be ‘easy’ or ‘very easy’ to obtain.