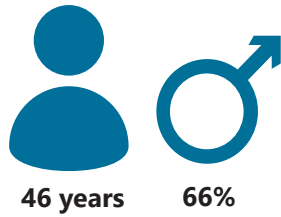


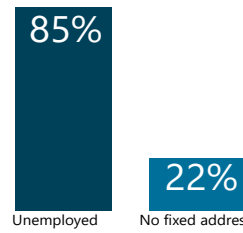
2023 SAMPLE CHARACTERISTICS



In 2023, 101 participants, recruited from Canberra, ACT were interviewed.



The median age in 2023 was 46, and 66% identified as male.

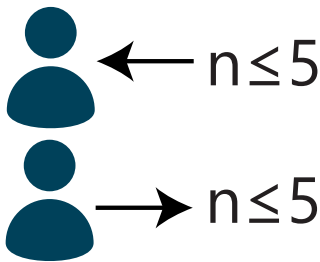


In the 2023 sample, 85% were unemployed and 22% had no fixed address.

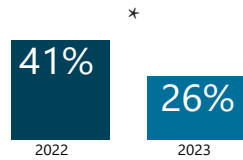
- Injected heroin
- Injected methamphetamine
- Injected other illicit or non-prescribed drugs

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

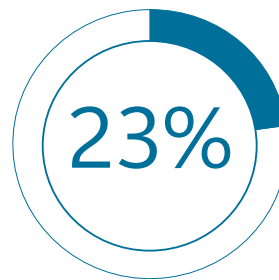
INJECTING RELATED RISKS AND HARMS



In 2023, few ($n \leq 5$) participants reported distributive and receptive sharing in the past month.



26% of participants reported re-using their own needles in the past month, a significant decrease relative to 2022 (41%).



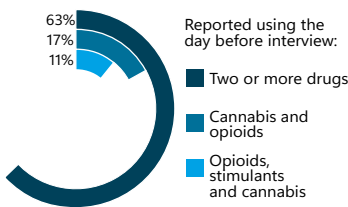
23% of participants reported injecting someone else after injecting themselves in the past month, stable relative to 2022 (19%).



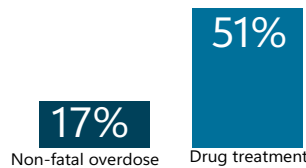
28% of participants reported having an injection-related health issue in the past month, stable from 2022 (30%).

* $p < 0.050$; ** $p < 0.010$; *** $p < 0.001$

OTHER HARMS AND HELP-SEEKING



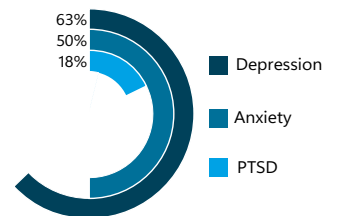
The most common patterns of poly substance use on the day preceding interview were cannabis and opioids, and opioids, stimulants and cannabis.



Past year non-fatal overdose (17%) and current drug treatment (51%) remained stable in 2023 relative to 2022.

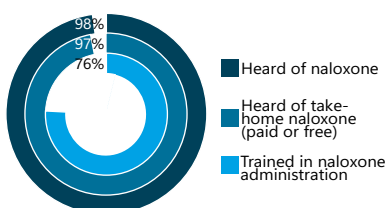


In 2023, two thirds (64%) of participants reported a mental health problem in the 6 months preceding interview, and one third (34%) had seen a mental health professional.



Among those who reported a mental health problem, the three most common mental health issues were depression, anxiety and PTSD.

NALOXONE, HARM REDUCTION AND STIGMA



Knowledge of naloxone remained high and stable, with an increase in participants reporting knowledge of take-home naloxone and participation in naloxone training programs.



Among those who were aware of naloxone, half (50%) reported ever using naloxone to resuscitate someone who had overdosed, with one third (33%) having done so in the past year.

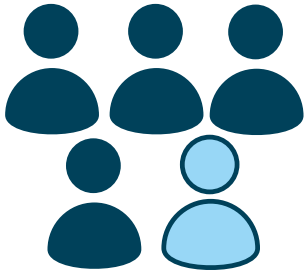


63% of the sample reported experiencing stigma because of their injecting drug use in the six months preceding interview, most commonly from police.

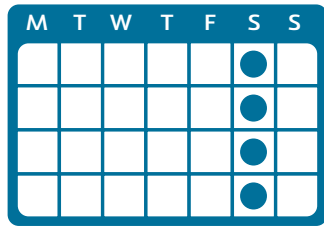


In 2023, one quarter (24%) of the sample reported that they or someone else had tested the content and/or purity of their illicit drugs in Australia in the past year.

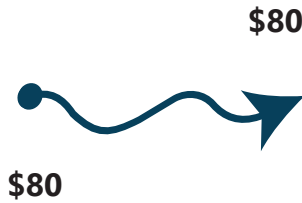
HEROIN



Past 6 month use of heroin was reported by 81% of the 2023 sample, a significant increase from 66% in 2022.



Of those who had recently consumed heroin, 79% reported weekly or more frequent use, stable from 2022 (80%).

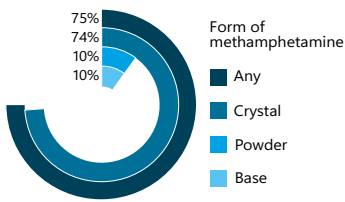


The median reported price for a point of heroin was \$80 in 2023, stable compared to \$80 in 2022.

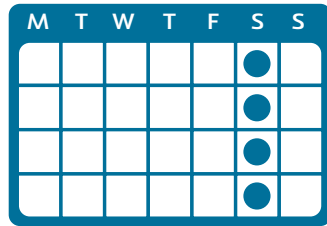


Of those who could comment, 98% perceived heroin to be 'easy' or 'very easy' to obtain, a significant increase from 2022 (91%).

METHAMPHETAMINE



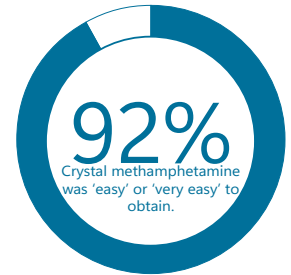
Past 6 month use of powder and base significantly increased in 2023, relative to 2022.



Of those who had recently used any form of methamphetamine, 71% reported weekly or more frequent use, stable from 2022 (70%).



In 2023, the median reported price for a point of crystal methamphetamine was \$50 (\$50 in 2022).



Of those who could comment, 92% perceived crystal methamphetamine to be 'easy' or 'very easy' to obtain in 2023 (93% in 2022).

OTHER DRUGS

Non-prescribed morphine



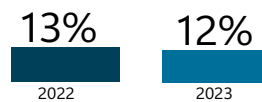
Past 6 month use of non-prescribed morphine remained stable between 2022 and 2023.

Non-prescribed fentanyl



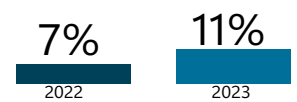
Past 6 month use of non-prescribed fentanyl remained stable between 2022 and 2023.

Non-prescribed pregabalin



Past 6 month use of non-prescribed pregabalin remained stable between 2022 and 2023.

GHB/GBL/1,4-BD

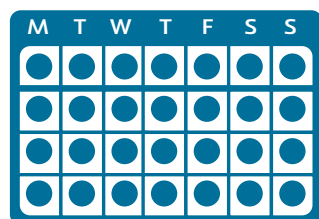


Past 6 month use of GHB/GBL/1,4-BD remained stable between 2022 and 2023.

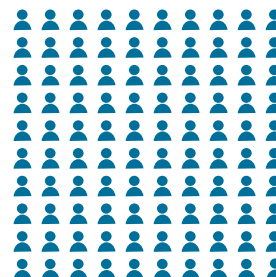
CANNABIS AND/OR CANNABINOID-RELATED PRODUCTS



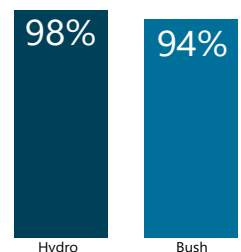
Past 6 month use of non-prescribed cannabis and/or cannabinoid-related products remained stable in 2023 (75%) relative to 2022 (77%).



Of those who had recently used non-prescribed cannabis and/or cannabinoid-related products, 58% reported daily use, stable from 2022 (54%).



Of participants who had consumed non-prescribed cannabis and/or cannabinoid-related products in the last 6 months, all (100%) had smoked it.



Of those who could comment, the majority perceived both hydro and bush to be 'easy' or 'very easy' to obtain, stable from 2022.