



IDRS

Illicit Drug
Reporting System

Trends in methamphetamine forms and routes of administration among people who regularly consume drugs in Australia

A. Karlsson, D. Gibbs, G. Kelly, J. Uporova, P. Dietze, R. Bruno, S. Lenton, C. Salom,
L. Degenhardt, M. Farrell & A. Peacock

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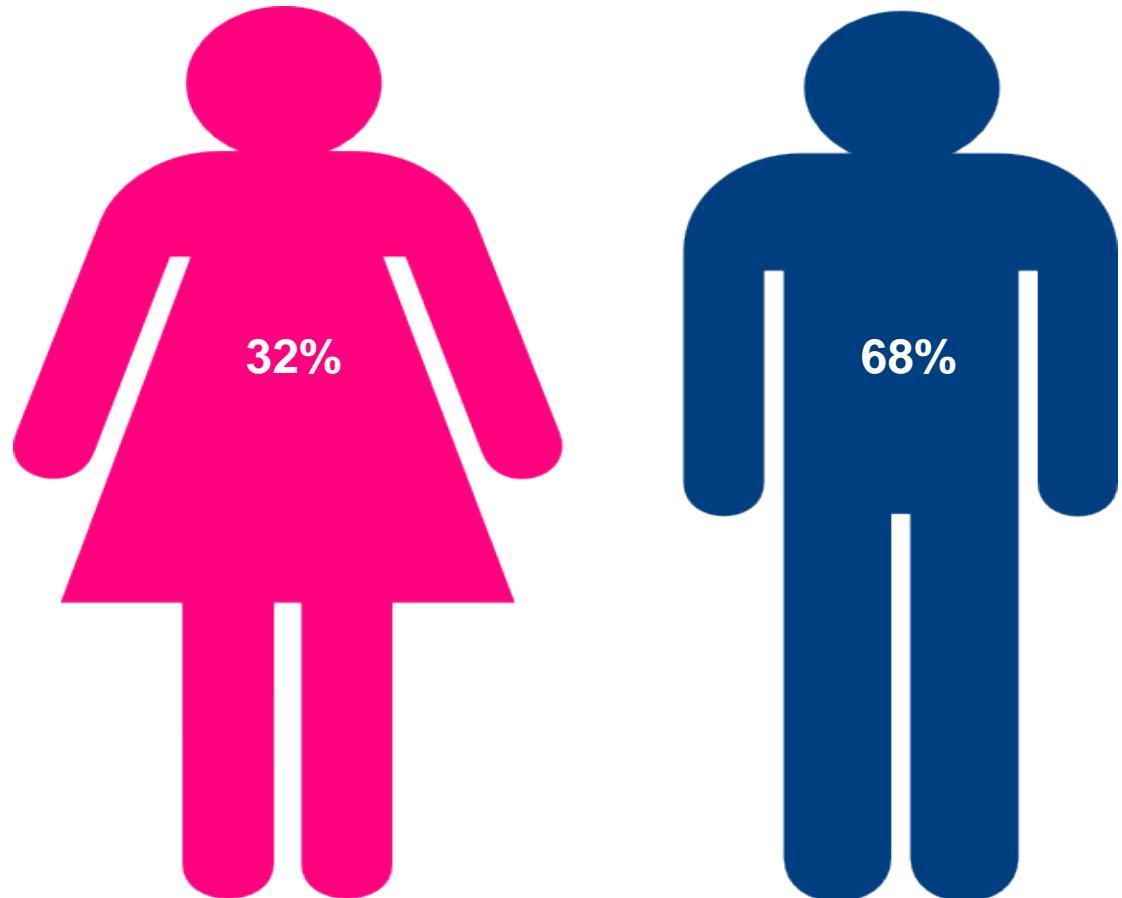


Background

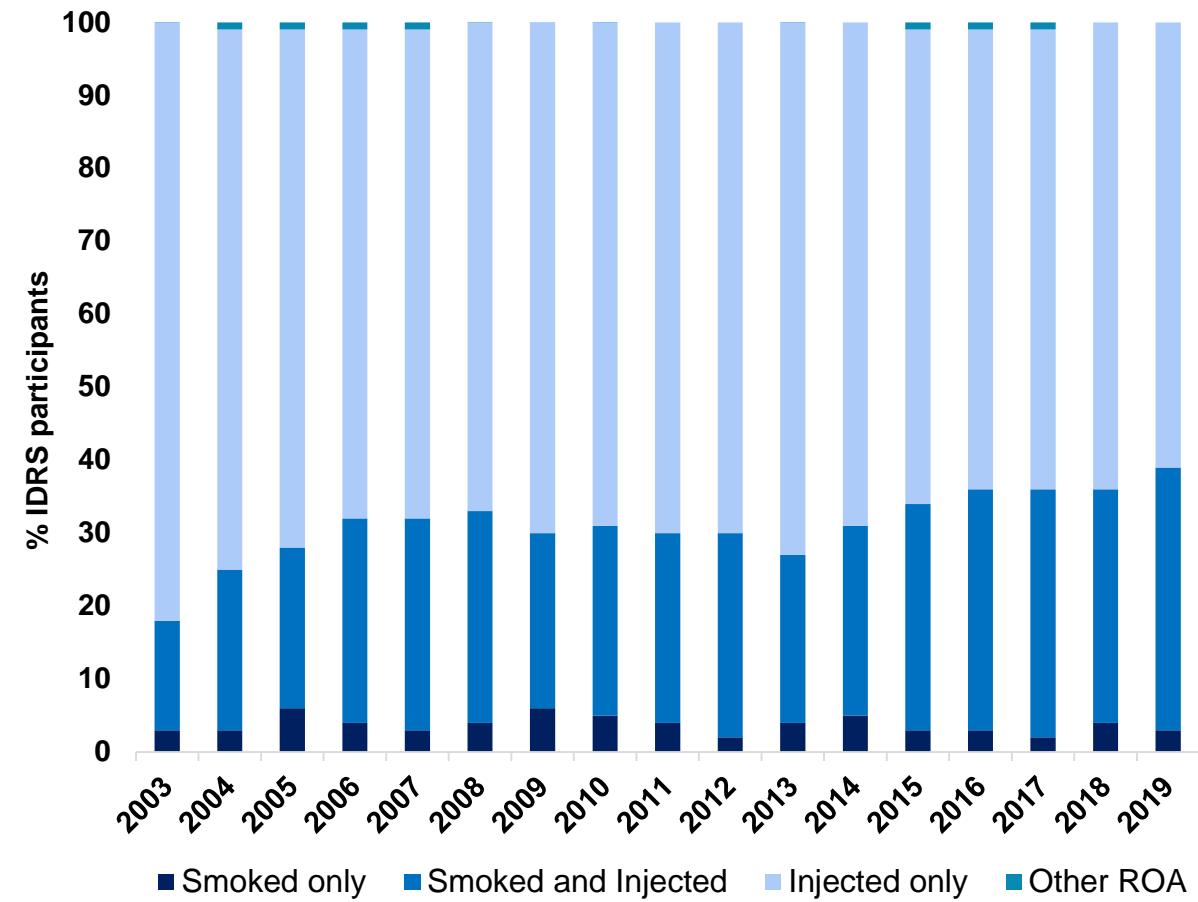
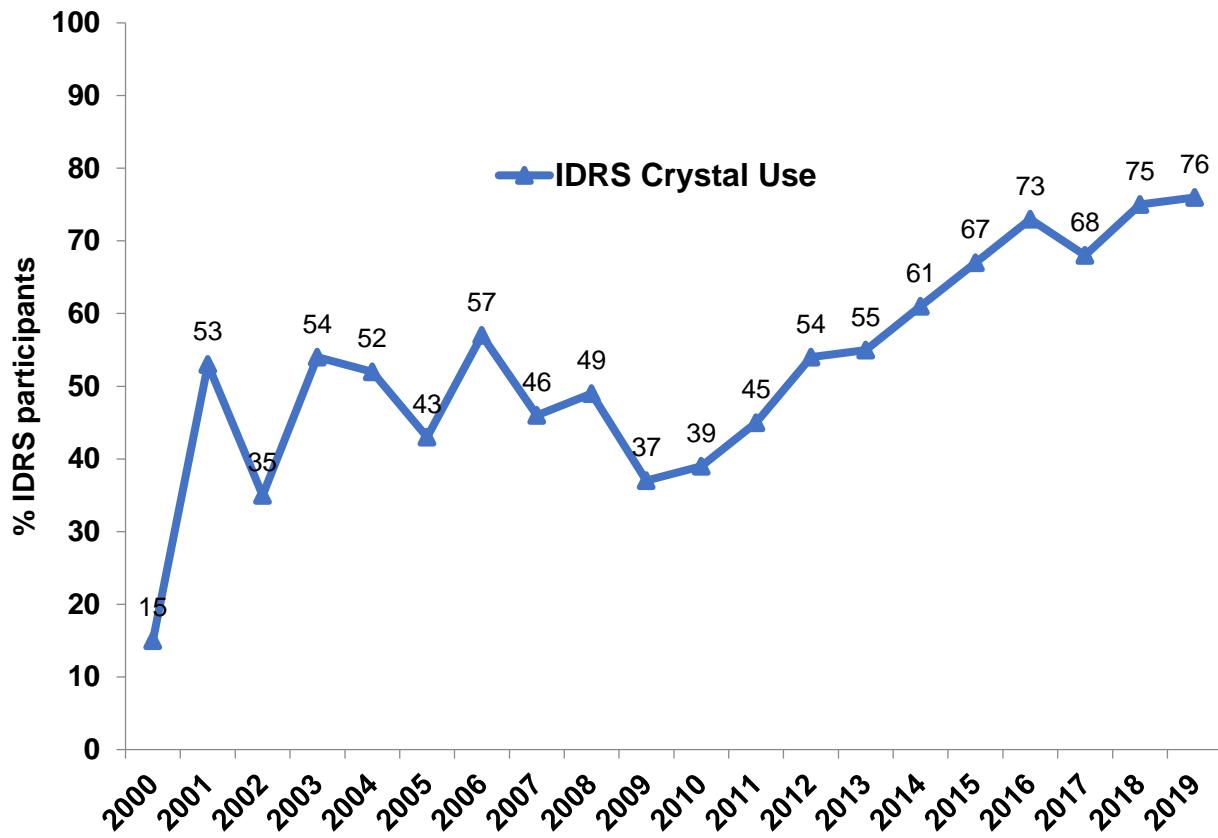
- Particular concern regarding the use of methamphetamine for a number of years now, especially on the use of crystal methamphetamine.
- Smoking considered to be a safer route of administration (ROA) than injecting → concerning due to a number of health risks associated with smoking:
 - Poor dental health;
 - High levels of associated methamphetamine dependence and psychosis;
 - Perceptions that smoking isn't as risky as injecting

Data Source and 2019 Sample Characteristics

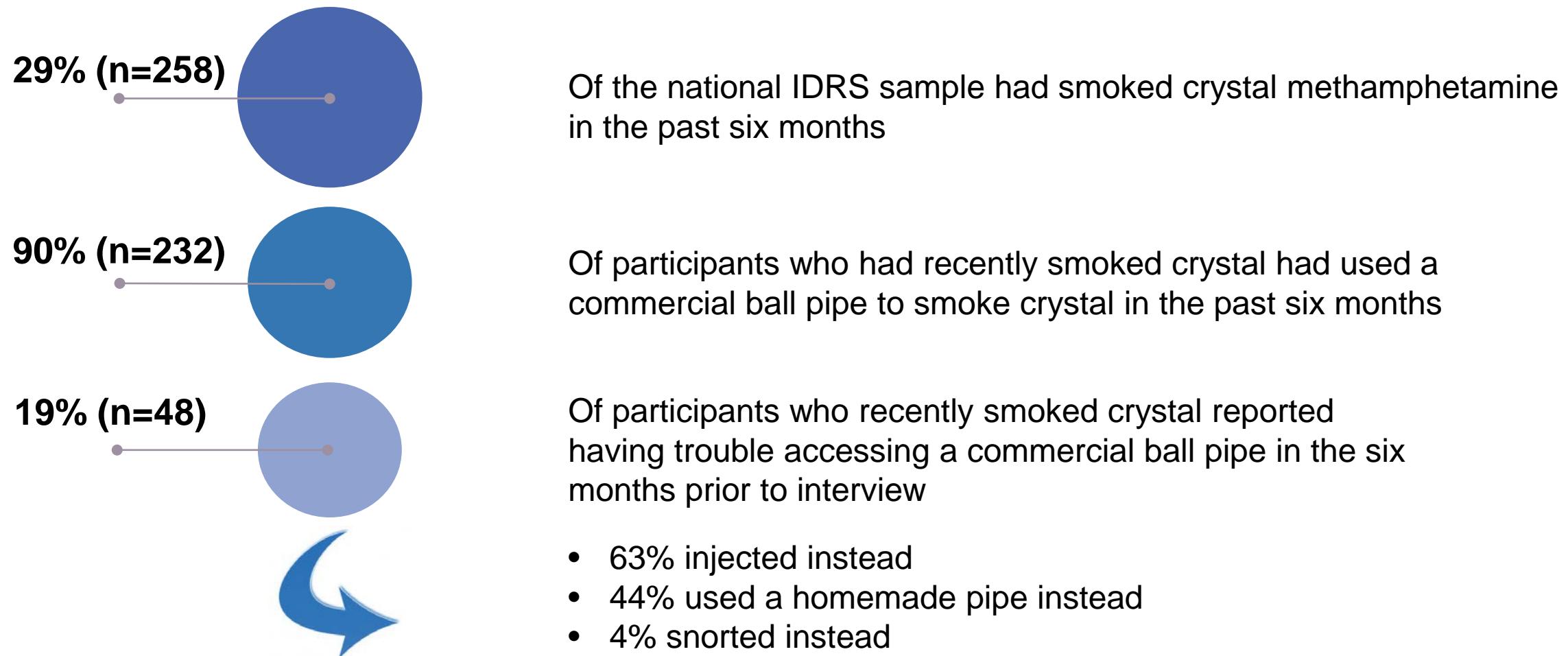
- Data obtained from the Illicit Drug Reporting System (IDRS) – annual survey of people who regularly inject drugs.
- Running since 2000 → 19 years of data
- 68% male; 32% female;
- Mean age: 43 years (range: 18-72 years);
- 88% unemployed;
- 9% had no fixed address;
- 89% received a pension from the government;
- 62% reported lifetime prison history



Recent Use of Crystal Methamphetamine (2000-2019) and Routes of Administration (2003-2019), IDRS



Use of Commercial Ball Pipes, IDRS, 2019



To conclude...

- Homemade pipes made from makeshift materials → harms including cuts, burns and blisters around the mouth area;
- Difficulties accessing pipes leads to higher frequency of injection → increased risk of harms;
- How can we engage with these people about the risks of smoking crystal methamphetamine?
- Distribution of ‘safer smoking kits’ → discussion and education about the risks associated with smoking crystal methamphetamine

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Disclosure of Interest

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- Michael Farrell - untied educational grant from Seqirus, Indivior, and Mundipharma for study of opioid medications

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