

**AUSTRALIAN DRUG TRENDS 2017
PRELIMINARY FINDINGS FROM THE
ILLICIT DRUGS REPORTING SYSTEM (IDRS)**



Preliminary findings

The Illicit Drug Reporting System (IDRS) is a national illicit drug monitoring system intended to identify emerging trends of local and national concern in illicit drug markets. This document reports the data from interviews with people who inject drugs regularly (PWID).

Each year we interview a sample of people who have experience with injecting drugs. To be in the survey, someone must have injected an illicit drug at least six times in the last six months. We only talk to people from urban areas, so the results do not tell us about injecting drug use in regional or rural areas of Australia. Because we conduct this survey annually, we can see what's changed over time – the preferred drug of choice, the types of drugs being used, the patterns of drug use, and perceptions about the drug market.

It is important to note that the results from the IDRS survey are not representative of injecting drug use in the general population.

This document presents preliminary findings from the 2017 IDRS and may be subject to minor change. Final figures will appear in the 2017 national and jurisdictional reports, to be released early next year. Previous years' data are available in reports published elsewhere and are accessible on the Drug Trends website <http://www.drugtrends.org.au/>

The first section provides a narrative overview of the preliminary findings. This is then followed by detailed tables.

OVERVIEW

Demographics

- We have been surveying people who inject drugs every year nationally since 1999. This year, the people we interviewed had very similar demographic characteristics as last year; the only exception was an increase in the proportion of the sample who reported completing a trade/technical qualification (41% vs. 47% in 2016; $p < 0.05$, see Table 1).

Drug of choice and frequency of use

- When we look at the four main drugs investigated in the IDRS (heroin, methamphetamine, cocaine and cannabis) across the whole sample ($N=888$), cannabis was the drug most commonly used on a 'weekly or more' and 'daily' basis (54% and 32%, respectively) with heroin the next most frequently used drug (43% of the total sample using 'weekly or more'; 17% of the total sample using 'daily', see Figure 3 and Figure 4).
- Heroin remained the most commonly nominated drug of choice in 2017 (46%), stable from 2016 (46%, see Table 2 and Figure 1). One third (32%) of the sample reported methamphetamine (any form) as their drug of choice.
- This sentinel group of people who inject drugs do so on a frequent basis. Nearly half (46%) of the 2017 national sample reported injecting daily in the month preceding interview (see Table 2). A slight increase in the frequency of injecting over the previous year with fewer people reporting injecting 'weekly or more often but less than daily' than in 2016 (32% vs. 38% in 2016; $p < 0.01$). There was no change in the drug most often injected in the last month (37% heroin; 40% methamphetamine, 12% morphine, see Table 2 and Figure 2).

Stimulant and Opioid Dependence

- Consistent with such regular injecting behaviour, a large percentage of the sample are dependent on opioids (69%), with almost half dependent on methamphetamine (48%) (see Table 3 and Table 4).

Heroin

- The percentage of the sample reporting past six month use of heroin was similar to 2016 (57% vs. 56% in 2016, see Table 5), as was the frequency of heroin use amongst those who had used heroin – 'weekly or more' (73% vs 72% in 2016) and 'daily' use (30% across both years, see Figure 5).
- We also saw no changes in the perceptions of the heroin market amongst those who had used heroin. Perceived purity was reported as 'low' (31%) or 'medium' (34%) and availability was reported as 'easy' (37%) or 'very easy' (52%) (see Table 7). There were no significant differences in price of heroin reported compared to 2016 (see Table 8). These similar perceptions across years suggest a highly stable heroin market.

Methamphetamine

- While 71% of the sample reported past six month use of methamphetamine (any form) in 2017, this represented a decline from 2016 (71% vs. 75% in 2016; $p < 0.05$, see Table 9), primarily driven by a decrease in the use of the crystal form of methamphetamine (68% in 2017 vs. 73% in 2016; $p < 0.05$, see Table 12).
- The frequency of methamphetamine use (any form) among those who had used methamphetamine however remained stable, with 61% reporting 'weekly or more often' use (59% in 2016) (see Figure 7).
- There were mixed patterns across methamphetamine market indicators in 2017, as perceived by those who had used methamphetamine. There was a decrease in percentages reporting perceived purity of crystal methamphetamine as being 'high' (30% vs. 37% in 2016; $p < 0.05$, see Table 15), but with no change in median price per point (see Table 16). Availability of methamphetamine across all forms remained reportedly 'easy' to 'very easy', and unchanged from 2016 (see Table 14), as would be expected from a sentinel group of drug consumers.

Cocaine

- Only 1% of the sample nominated cocaine as their preferred drug (see Table 2), but 13% of the sample reporting using cocaine at least once in the last six months (11% in 2016, not statistically different, see Table 17). Among those who had used cocaine, the percentages reporting 'weekly or more' use (16% vs. 15% in 2016) and 'daily' use (4% across both years) remained stable (see Figure 8).
- Cocaine was perceived as 'difficult' to obtain by 35% of the 2017 sample who had used cocaine (no change from 2016), and perceptions of high purity increased to 46% from 29% in 2016, but this is not statistically significant (see Table 19, note small sample size). There was no apparent change in reported price (see Table 20).

Cannabis

- As noted earlier, cannabis was the drug most frequently used across the whole sample, with 72% reporting cannabis use in the last six months (see Table 21); no change from the previous year. The cannabis market is perceived as stable: with no changes in perceived purity, availability nor prices paid (see Table 23 and Table 24).

Other drug use

- As would be expected in this sentinel sample of people who regularly inject drugs, drug use was not confined to the traditional illicit drugs, but also included non-prescribed use of pharmaceutical opioids, such as methadone, buprenorphine, buprenorphine-naloxone, morphine and oxycodone. The percentage of the sample who reportedly injected these pharmaceutical opioids ranged from 11% for buprenorphine to 27% for morphine (see Table 25, Table 26, Table 27, Table 29, and Table 31). This pattern was unchanged from 2016, but when a longer time series is examined for methadone, one can observe a downward trend from 28% in 2003 to 16% in 2017 (see Table 25).
- Non-prescribed use of other pharmaceuticals such as benzodiazepines are also common amongst people who inject drugs. Benzodiazepine injection, however, is continuing a downward trend from 17% in 2003 to 5% in 2017 (see Table 32).
- Tobacco use decreased significantly in 2017 (88% vs. 93% in 2016; $p < 0.01$, see Table 33).

Drug-related risk behaviours

- Injecting drug use is an inherently high-risk activity. Blood borne viruses can be contracted through sharing injecting equipment. In the 2017 survey, we observed a significant decrease in the rate of sharing of injecting equipment from 26% in 2016 to 20% in 2017 ($p < 0.01$, see Table 35). On the other hand, injection-related problems remained high in the sample (65%), with scarring/bruising reported by almost half of respondents (45%, see Table 34).
- Mental health problems were frequently reported by respondents (43%) in 2017 (see Table 36).
- No apparent differences were observed for lifetime and recent overdose between 2016 and 2017. In 2017, 42% of the sample reported ever overdosing on heroin (42% in 2016). Seven percent reported having ever overdosed on 'other opioids' (including methadone, morphine and oxycodone), compared to 8% in 2016. Nineteen percent reported having overdosed on 'other' drugs in their lifetime and of those who reported overdosing in the last 12 months, 51% attributed this overdose to crystal methamphetamine (see Table 38).

KEY FINDINGS FROM THE 2017 IDRS

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

People who inject drugs (PWID) - those who have injected any drug 6 or more times in the last 6 months

* Significant increase/decrease ($p < 0.05$) from previous year (2016) compared with current year (2017)

** Significant increase/decrease ($p < 0.01$) from previous year (2016) compared with current year (2017)

Note: Due to multiple testing, the significance set at $p < 0.01$ offers a more conservative measure.

Guide to median days of use

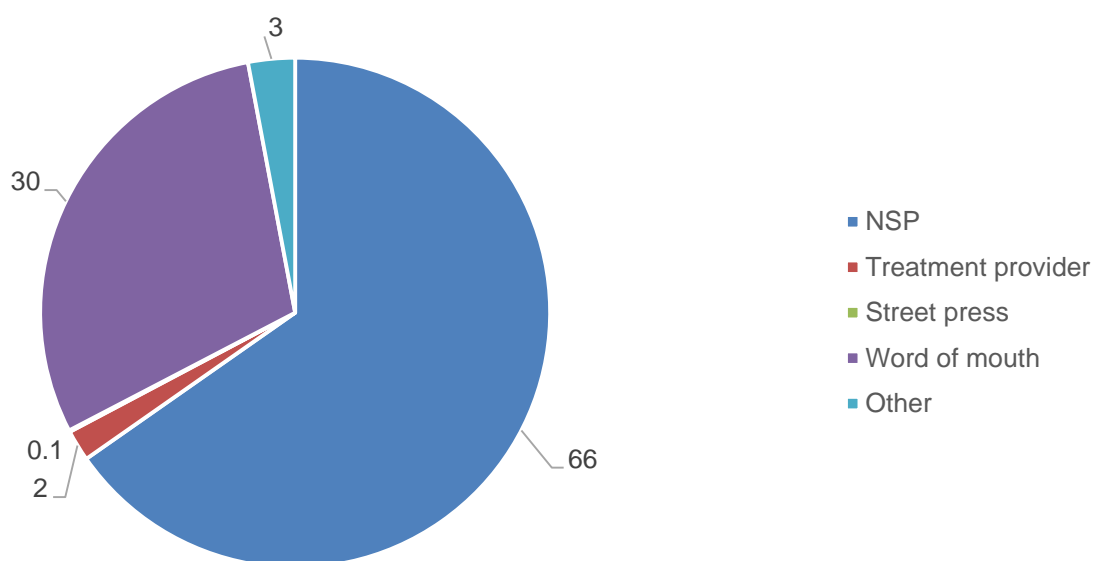
Throughout this document, median days of drug use are reported. As an indication:

180 days = daily use	90 days = use every 2 nd 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%.

PARTICIPANT RECRUITMENT

- 38% of participants nationally reported they had completed the IDRS survey in a previous year.
- Participants were primarily recruited through Needle and Syringe programs (NSP) and word of mouth (snowballing).



DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

Table 1: Demographic characteristics of the sample, 2016-2017

	National		NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
	N=877	N=888	n=151	n=100	n=152	n=100	n=100	n=73	n=109	n=103
	2016	2017								
Mean age (years)	43	43	44	43	42	41	45	43	45	43
% Male	69	67	66	72	73	60	61	60	62	75
% English speaking background	98	98	96	98	95	100	98	100	98	98
% Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	17	19	28	19	20	18	7	10	26	18
% Single	61	60	52	72	67	63	56	51	60	58
% Heterosexual	89	87	78	89	85	91	92	90	91	85
Mean grade at school completed	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
% Completed trade/tech qualification	47	41*	36	40	34	49	49	47	34	47
% Unemployed	86	84	91	83	89	80	77	81	83	84
Mean income per week (\$)	(N=851) \$418	(N=874) \$428	(n=146) \$377	(n=99) \$397	(n=150) \$419	(n=99) \$468	(n=100) \$427	(n=72) \$405	(n=107) \$522	(n=101) \$421

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

DRUG USE PATTERNS

Table 2: Drug use patterns, 2016-2017

	National		NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
	N=877	N=888	n=151	n=100	n=152	n=100	n=100	n=73	n=109	n=102
	2016	2017								
Mean age first injected	20	20	19	20	19	21	21	19	23	20
% Drug of choice										
Heroin	46	46	62	47	65	23	38	62	14	47
Methamphetamine [^]	29	32	27	38	28	35	48	25	30	28
<i>Speed</i>	7	8	1	3	6	18	16	3	12	8
<i>Base</i>	2	<1*	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
<i>Crystal</i>	21	24	26	35	22	17	31	22	18	18
Morphine [`]	8	9	1	0	0	20	4	3	38	7
Oxycodone [`]	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	1
Methadone [`]	3	2	0	1	0	13	0	1	1	4
Buprenorphine [#]	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	3	1
Cocaine	1	1	1	2	1	0	2	0	1	2
Cannabis	6	5	5	7	5	4	5	8	7	2
Other drugs	2	2	1	4	1	1	0	0	2	4
% Drug injected most often last month										
Heroin	39	37	55	43	64	1	36	53	1	26
Methamphetamine [^]	40	40	36	49	34	39	56	35	33	43
<i>Speed</i>	3	4	1	0	2	3	7	3	9	10
<i>Base</i>	1	<1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1
<i>Crystal</i>	36	35	35	49	32	36	47	32	24	32
Morphine	12	12	1	1	0	29	4	3	58	9
Oxycodone	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Methadone	5	5	1	3	0	24	0	3	2	11
Buprenorphine [#]	3	3	2	2	1	3	1	7	1	7
Cocaine	<1	<1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other drugs	0	2	3	2	1	3	2	0	2	3
% Injection frequency last month										
Not in last month	1	2**	2	1	3	5	1	1	3	2
Weekly or less	17	20	10	15	28	17	18	22	25	27
More than weekly (but less than daily)	38	32**	33	33	30	48	36	29	15	32
Once daily	16	20	17	23	15	23	19	18	27	17
2-3 times daily	22	20	27	23	15	6	23	19	30	15
> 3 times a day	6	6	11	5	9	1	3	11	1	8
% in current drug treatment [#]	43	43	44	47	50	44	30	48	17	57

Source: IDRS PWID interviews.

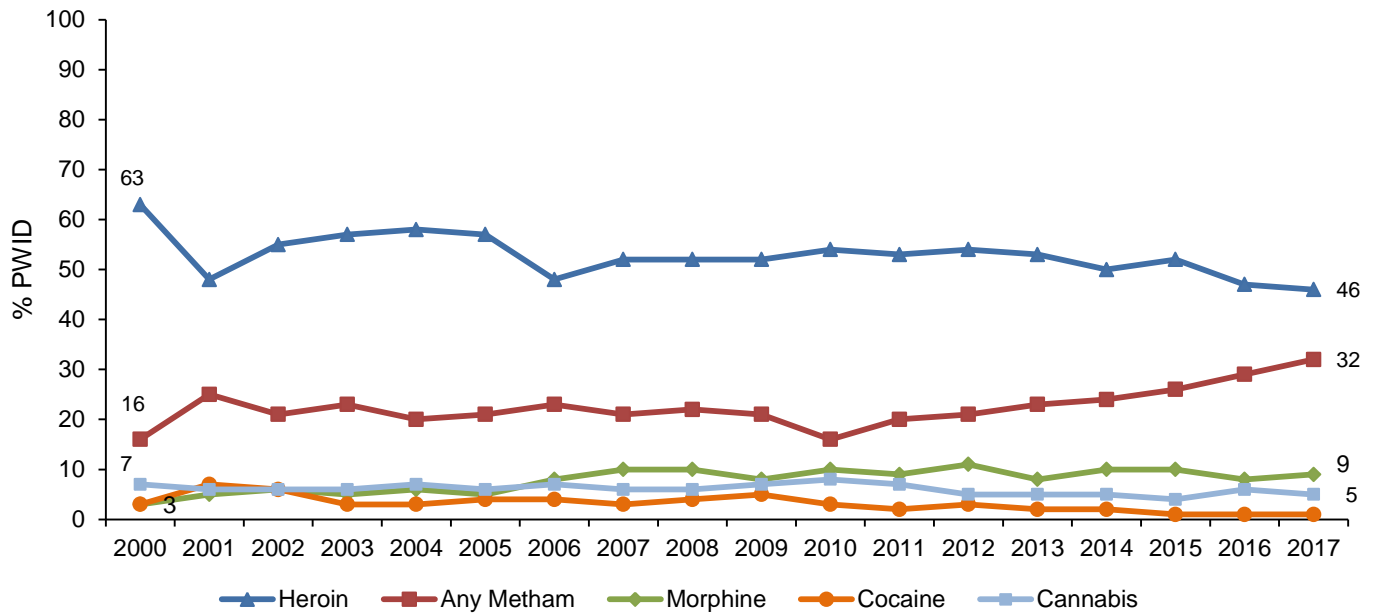
[^] Includes speed powder, base, crystal and liquid methamphetamine.

[#] Includes buprenorphine-naloxone (Suboxone).

[#] Includes all types of pharmacotherapy treatment, drug counselling, detoxification, therapeutic community and narcotics anonymous.

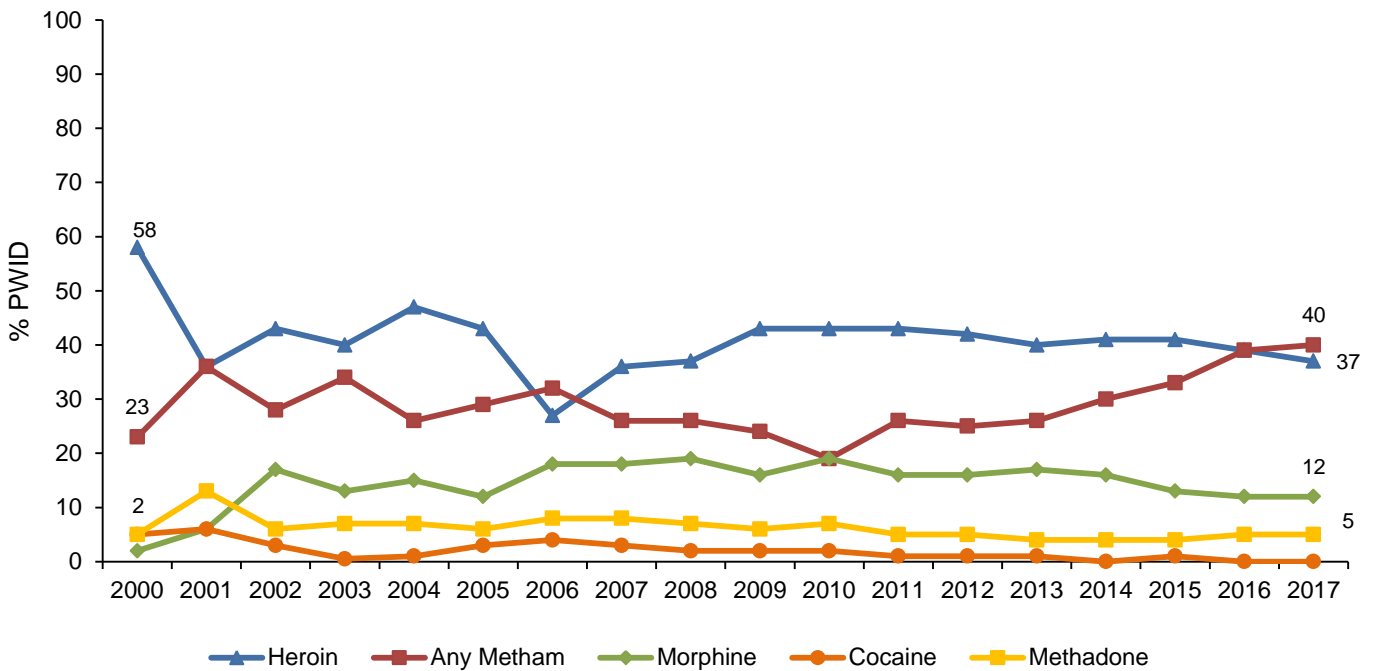
[`] Includes licit and illicit use (morphine, oxycodone, methadone and buprenorphine).

Figure 1: Drug of choice, nationally, 2000-2017



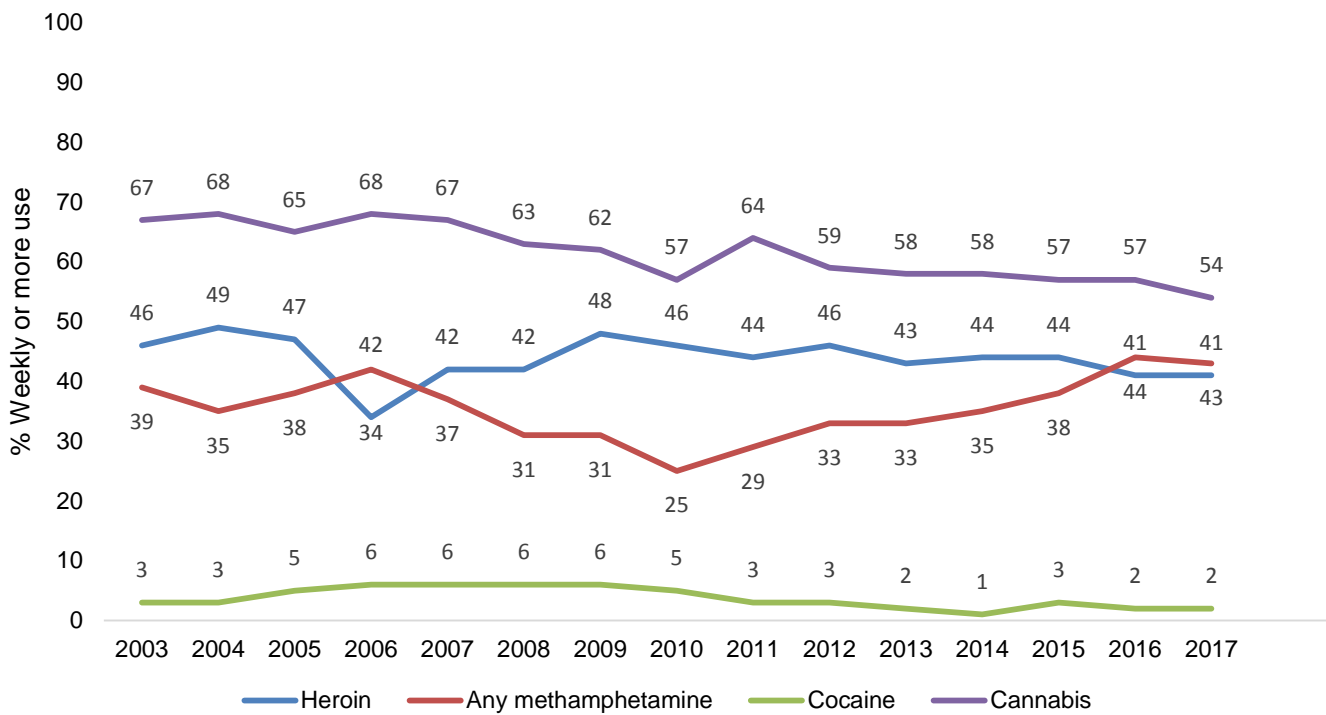
Source: IDRS PWID interviews.

Figure 2: Drug injected most often in the last month, nationally, 2000-2017



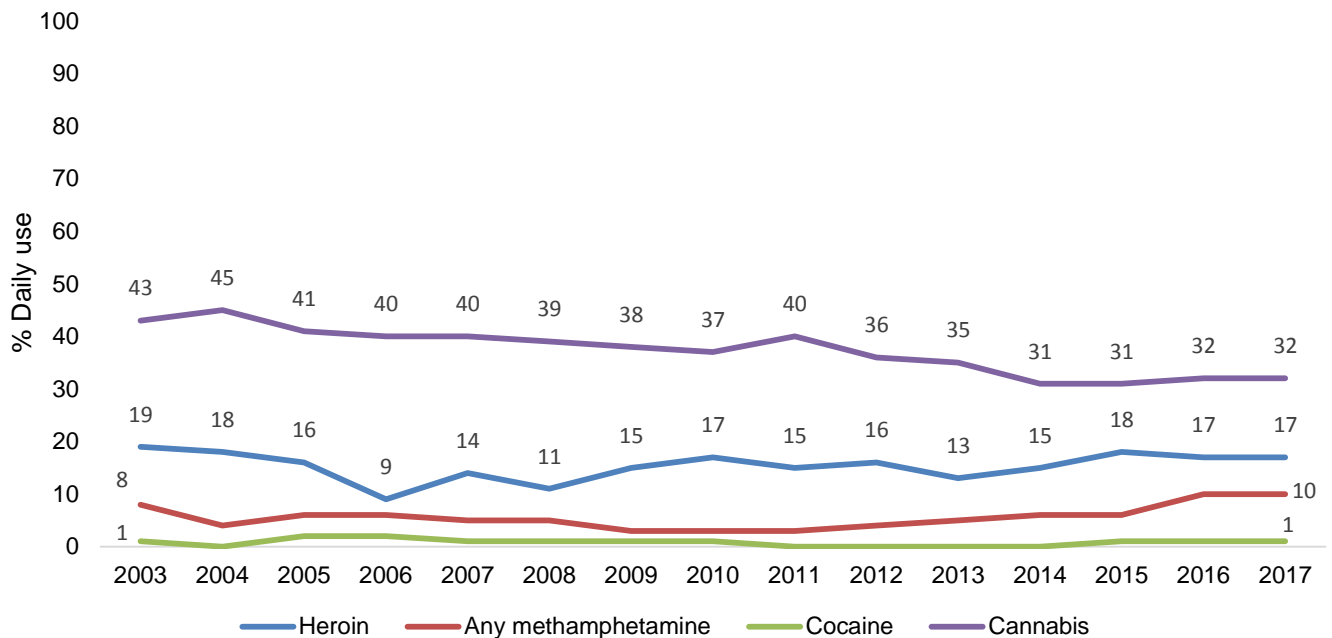
Source: IDRS PWID interviews.

Figure 3: ‘Weekly or more’ drug use among PWID in the last six months, nationally, 2003-2017



Source: IDRS PWID interviews.

Figure 4: ‘Daily’ drug use among PWID in the last six months, nationally, 2003-2017



Source: IDRS PWID interviews.

Table 3: Distribution of participants using opioids, mean SDS (Severity of Dependence Scale¹) score and percentage scoring five or above on the SDS (among those who had used an opioid), nationally, 2010-2017

Year	Recently used an opioid (n)	Mean SDS score (range)	Score 5 or more %
2010	N=607	8.6 (0-15)	77
2011	n.a	n.a	n.a
2012	N=806	8.0 (0-15)	76
2013	N=774	7.2 (0-15)	74
2014	N=796	6.9 (0-15)	69
2015	N=746	7.2 (0-15)	72
2016	N=704	7.1 (0-15)	75
2017	N=687	6.9 (0-15)	69

Source: IDRS PWID interviews.

Note: n.a Not available.

Table 4: Distribution of participants using stimulants, mean SDS score² and percentage scoring four or above on the SDS (among those who had used a stimulant), nationally, 2010-2017

Year	Recently used a stimulant (n)	Mean SDS score (range)	Score 4 or more %
2010	N=243	3.5 (0-15)	44
2011	n.a	n.a	n.a
2012	N=568	3.0 (0-15)	43
2013	N=578	3.4 (0-15)	39
2014	N=614	3.7 (0-14)	41
2015	N=608	3.9 (0-15)	46
2016	N=630	4.1 (0-15)	48
2017	N=590	4.2 (0-15)	48

Source: IDRS PWID interviews.

Note: n.a Not available.

¹ No validated cut-off for opioid dependence exists; however, researchers typically use a cut-off value of five as indicative of dependence.

² Previous research has suggested that a cut-off of four is indicative of dependence for methamphetamine users (Topp and Mattick, 1997).

HEROIN

Patterns of Heroin Use

Table 5: Percentage of PWID who reported use of heroin in the preceding six months, 2003-2017

	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
2015	58	91	79	74	5	49	75	14	50
2016	56	86	70	77	7	37	78	7	58
2017	57	80	74	80	15	52	66	13	55

Source: IDRS PWID interviews.

Table 6: Median days of heroin use in the preceding six months among those who had used heroin, 2003-2017

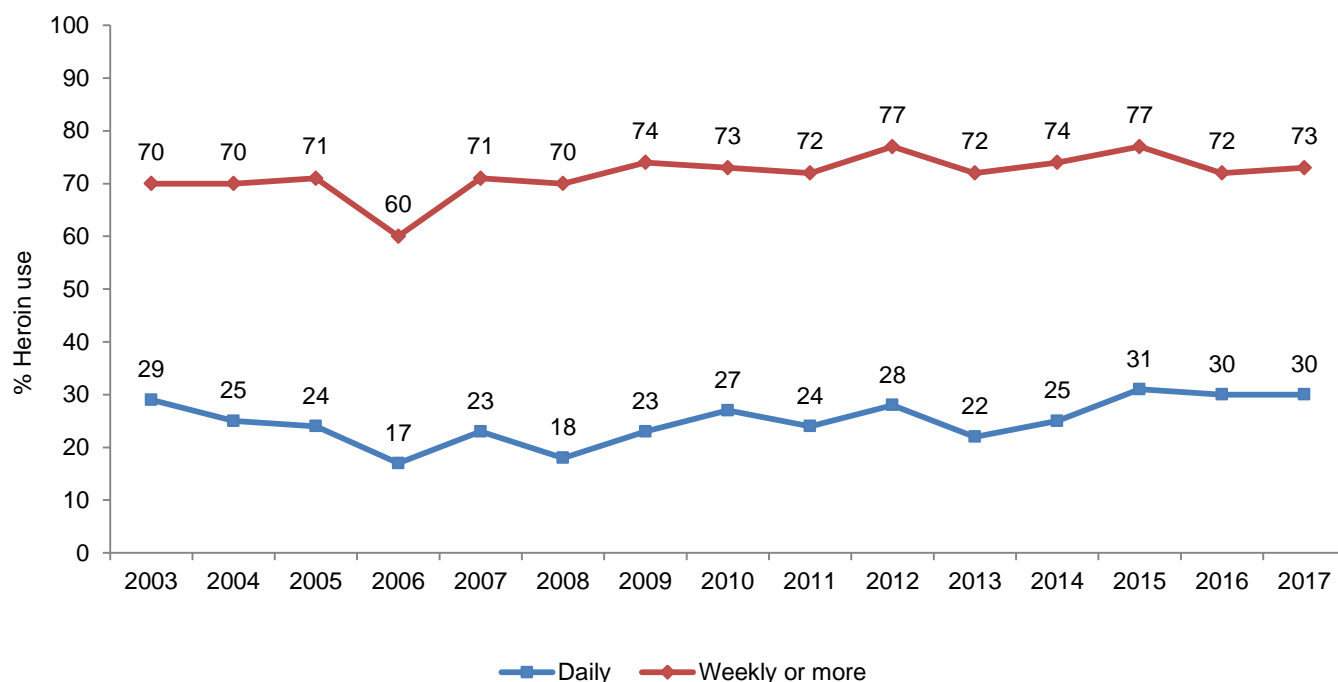
	National	NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
2003	72	170	93	76	4.5	72	20	5	49
2004	72	120	72	90	4	48	48	5	26
2005	70	96	60	81	6	28	60	4	52
2006	40	72	24	56	-	19	20	13	52
2007	72	96	48	90	-	48	72	-	28
2008	49	72	60	81	-	48	48	6	48
2009	72	96	48	51	6	30	96	17	72
2010	72	96	60	74	-	24	55	-	90
2011	72	90	66	63	4	72	68	-	66
2012	72	96	72	72	-	48	90	4.5	72
2013	60	90	50	72	3	72	54	3	30
2014	72	120	60	48	3	108	72	-	48
2015	90	120	70	96	3	72	95	22	48
2016	75 (1-180)	90	72	90	-	75	100	-	15
2017	72 (1-180)	140	60	72	10	61	75	48	24

Source: IDRS PWID interviews.

- not published due to small numbers reported (n<10).

Note: Maximum number of days, i.e. daily use = 180. See page 1 for guide. The range is provided in brackets for years 2016-2017

Figure 5: 'Daily' and 'weekly or more' heroin use among those who had used heroin in the last six months, nationally, 2003-2017



Source: IDRS PWID interviews.

Table 7: Reports of current perceived heroin availability and purity by PWID *who commented*, 2016-2017

	National		NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
	2016	2017								
% Current availability (n)	N=457	N=449	n=119	n=63	n=95	n=14	n=48	n=45	n=12	n=53
Very easy	53	52	51	41	62	21	69	64	17	40
Easy	38	37	38	48	32	21	29	31	42	51
Difficult	8	8	10	10	6	29	0	2	25	9
Very difficult	1	2	1	2	0	29	2	2	17	0
% Current purity (n)	N=451	N=430	n=113	n=61	n=91	n=12	n=46	n=45	n=11	n=51
High	19	22	21	18	15	25	20	33	36	26
Medium	34	34	36	38	28	25	39	31	27	41
Low	33	31	27	34	40	25	37	13	18	31
Fluctuates	13	14	16	10	18	25	4	22	18	2

Source: IDRS PWID interviews.

- not published due to small numbers reported (n<10).

Note: The response option 'don't know' was excluded from analysis.

Table 8: Median price of last heroin purchase among those *who commented*, 2016-2017

	Median price \$ per cap		Median price \$ per gram	
	2016	2017	2016	2017
National	50 n = 230	50 n = 252	350 n = 112	335 n = 126
NSW	50	50	350	350
ACT	80	80	300	300
VIC	40	40	220	250
TAS	-	-	-	-
SA	50	50	400	400
WA	100	100	600	-
NT	-	-	-	-
QLD	50	50	-	400

Source: IDRS PWID interviews.

- not published due to small numbers reported (n<10).

METHAMPHETAMINE

Patterns of Methamphetamine Use

Table 9: Percentage of PWID who reported use of 'any' form of methamphetamine[^], last six months, 2003-2017

%	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
2015	72	66	81	74	72	76	71	67	67
2016	75	77	83	73	75	77	65	71	70
2017	71*	69	80	66	69	76	70	66	74

Source: IDRS PWID interviews.

[^]includes speed powder, base, crystal and liquid methamphetamine.

Table 10: Percentage of PWID who reported use of speed powder, last six months, 2003-2017

%	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
2015	25	13	15	18	49	32	34	25	27
2016	20	17	18	9	33	19	18	24	27
2017	20	10	20	15	30	18	16	19	34

Source: IDRS PWID interviews.

Table 11: Percentage of PWID who reported use of base methamphetamine, last six months, 2003-2017

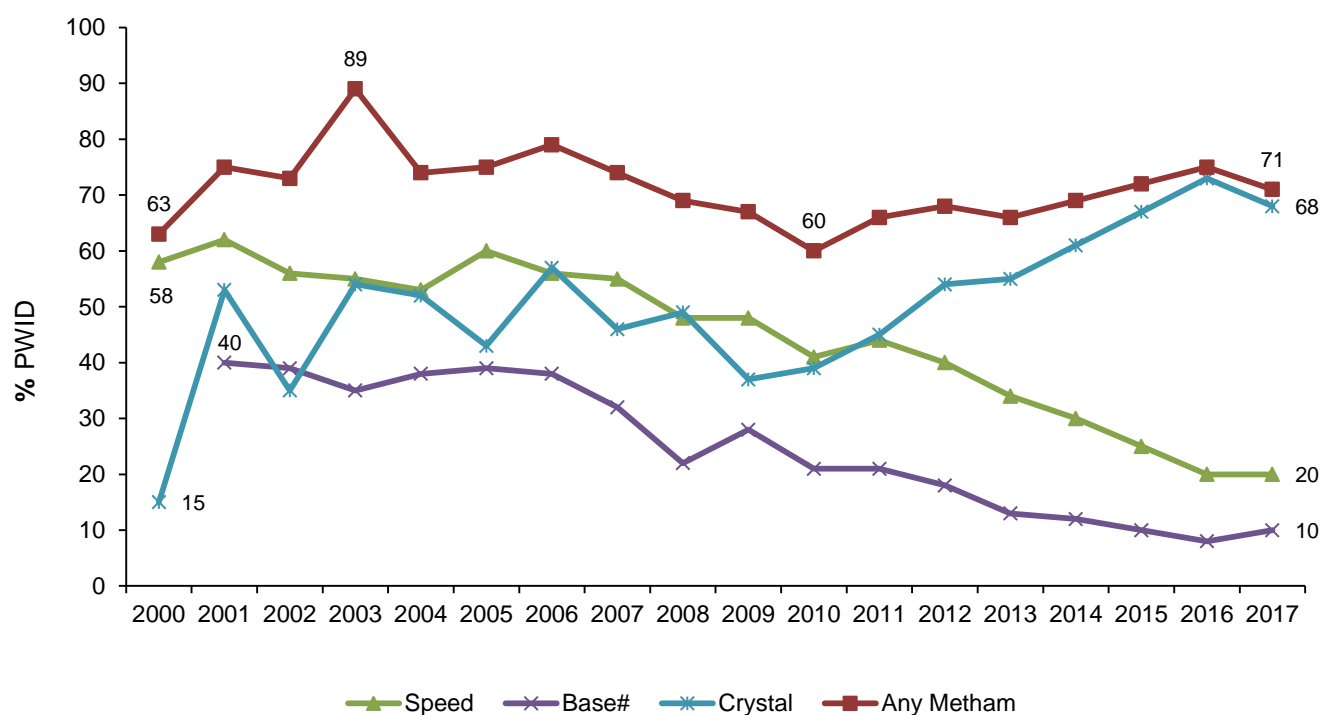
%	National	NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
2003	35	32	13	18	46	51	40	30	50
2004	38	31	25	11	72	46	45	26	60
2005	39	38	28	13	79	61	54	16	40
2006	38	43	32	15	55	52	37	25	53
2007	32	41	32	8	48	42	22	20	48
2008	22	33	18	5	25	37	13	10	34
2009	28	36	21	13	55	31	12	16	41
2010	21	29	18	3	40	43	8	6	30
2011	21	17	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
2015	10	6	10	4	9	26	2	4	20
2016	8	11	5	0	4	24	3	6	14
2017	10	8	11	3	3	30	7	7	20

Source: IDRS PWID interviews.

Table 12: Percentage of PWID who reported use of crystal methamphetamine, last six months, 2003-2017

%	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
2015	67	65	79	71	59	70	64	60	62
2016	73	77	78	73	73	75	62	69	69
2017	68*	69	79	63	65	72	69	60	69

Source: IDRS PWID interviews.

Figure 6: Recent use of any methamphetamine, speed, base and crystal, nationally, 2000-2017

Source: IDRS PWID interviews.

Base asked separately from 2001 onwards.

Table 13: Median days of methamphetamine use in the last six months among those who had used methamphetamine, 2016-2017

	National		NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
	2016	2017								
Speed	6 (1-180)	6 (1-180)	30	6	7.5	4	6	3.5	7	8
Base	8 (1-180)	5 (1-180)	2	4	-	-	24.5	-	-	4.5
Crystal	30 (1-180)	30 (1-180)	48	60	24	15	72	27	48	20
Any form[#]	36.5 (1-180)	38 (1-180)	49.5	70	24	20	81	24	48	24

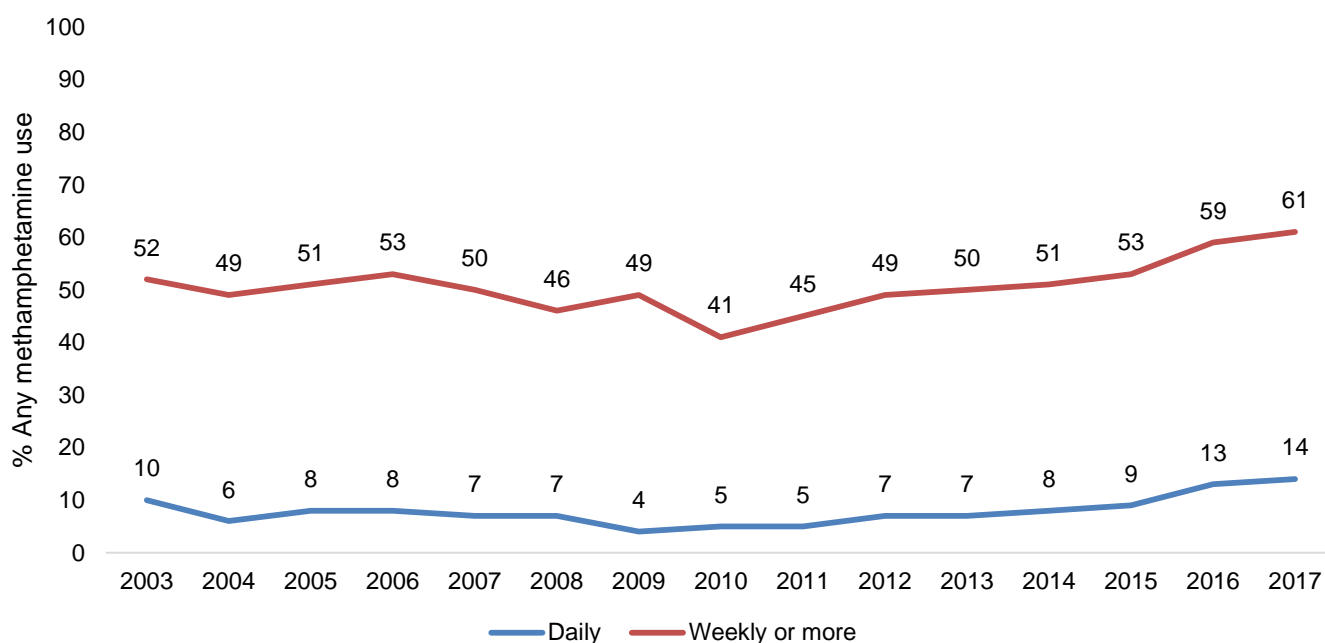
Source: IDRS PWID interviews.

- not published due to small numbers reported (n<10).

Includes speed powder, base crystal and liquid forms.

Note: Maximum number of days, i.e. daily use = 180. See page 1 for guide.

Figure 7: 'Daily' and 'weekly or more' any methamphetamine[^] use among those who had used methamphetamine in the last six months, nationally, 2003-2017



Source: IDRS PWID interviews.

[^] includes speed, base, crystal and liquid forms.

Table 14: Reports of current perceived methamphetamine availability by PWID *who commented*, 2016-2017

	National		NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
	2016	2017								
% Speed (n)	(N=119)	(N=146)	(n=20)	(n=18)	(n=6)	(n=28)	(n=12)	(n=11)	(n=26)	(n=25)
Very easy	39	33	30	28	-	18	33	64	46	36
Easy	36	39	35	44	-	43	33	18	42	40
Difficult	15	20	25	28	-	18	17	9	12	24
Very difficult	10	8	10	0	-	21	17	9	0	0
% Base (n)	(N=48)	(N=64)	(n=9)	(n=6)	(n=1)	(n=3)	(n=28)	(n=0)	(n=6)	(n=11)
Very easy	33	30	-	-	-	-	46	-	-	18
Easy	35	38	-	-	-	-	39	-	-	27
Difficult	23	27	-	-	-	-	11	-	-	46
Very difficult	8	6	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	9
% Crystal (n)	(N=545)	(N=526)	(n=92)	(n=65)	(n=63)	(n=68)	(n=73)	(n=42)	(n=62)	(n=61)
Very easy	58	56	57	51	54	62	52	79	52	53
Easy	38	39	37	45	41	37	45	19	40	38
Difficult	4	5	7	5	5	2	3	2	8	10
Very difficult	<1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Source: IDRS PWID interviews.

- not published due to small numbers reported (n<10).

Note: The response option 'don't know' was excluded from analysis.

Table 15: Reports of current perceived methamphetamine purity by PWID *who commented*, 2016-2017

	National		NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
	2016	2017								
% Speed (n)	(N=112)	(N=139)	(n=20)	(n=16)	(n=5)	(n=28)	(n=11)	(n=10)	(n=25)	(n=24)
High	30	23	25	19	-	14	18	40	16	29
Medium	38	37	45	44	-	36	27	20	40	38
Low	19	28	20	31	-	36	36	10	36	21
Fluctuates	13	12	10	6	-	14	18	30	8	13
% Base (n)	(N=45)	(N=62)	(n=8)	(n=7)	(n=1)	(n=2)	(n=29)	(n=0)	(n=5)	(n=10)
High	29	24	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	40
Medium	47	39	-	-	-	-	41	-	-	60
Low	16	26	-	-	-	-	31	-	-	0
Fluctuates	9	11	-	-	-	-	17	-	-	0
% Crystal (n)	(N=525)	(N=508)	(n=90)	(n=63)	(n=61)	(n=65)	(n=69)	(n=41)	(n=62)	(n=57)
High	37	30*	24	21	28	32	22	49	37	35
Medium	32	33	36	41	28	31	44	22	23	32
Low	16	18	16	22	26	14	16	10	16	26
Fluctuates	14	19*	24	16	18	23	19	20	24	7

Source: IDRS PWID interviews.

- not published due to small numbers reported (n<10). Note: The response option 'don't know' was excluded from analysis.

Table 16: Median price of last methamphetamine purchase among those *who commented*, 2016-2017

Median price \$ per point							Median price \$ per gram					
	Speed powder		Base		Crystal		Speed powder		Base		Crystal	
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017
National	50 n = 81	50 n = 85	50 n = 31	50 n = 45	50 n = 427	50 n = 405	300 n = 27	350 n = 35	400 n = 11	300 n = 13	400 n = 112	350 n = 113
NSW	-	50	-	-	50	50	-	-	-	-	400	310
ACT	50	-	-	-	85	50	-	-	-	-	500	390
VIC	-	-	-	-	50	50	-	-	-	-	350	350
TAS	50	77.5	-	-	100	100	-	-	-	-	-	425
SA	50	-	50	50	50	50	-	-	-	-	400	325
WA	-	-	-	-	100	75	-	-	-	-	-	475
NT	100	100	-	-	100	100	-	-	-	-	-	650
QLD	50	50	-	-	50	50	-	-	-	-	400	300

Source: IDRS PWID interviews.

- not published due to small numbers reported (n<10).

COCAINE

Patterns of Cocaine Use

Table 17: Percentage of PWID who reported using cocaine in the preceding six months, 2003-2017

	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
2015	13	34	12	9	2	13	11	4	8
2016	11	25	8	10	6	6	10	4	9
2017	13	21	18	12	11	10	10	9	9

Source: IDRS PWID interviews.

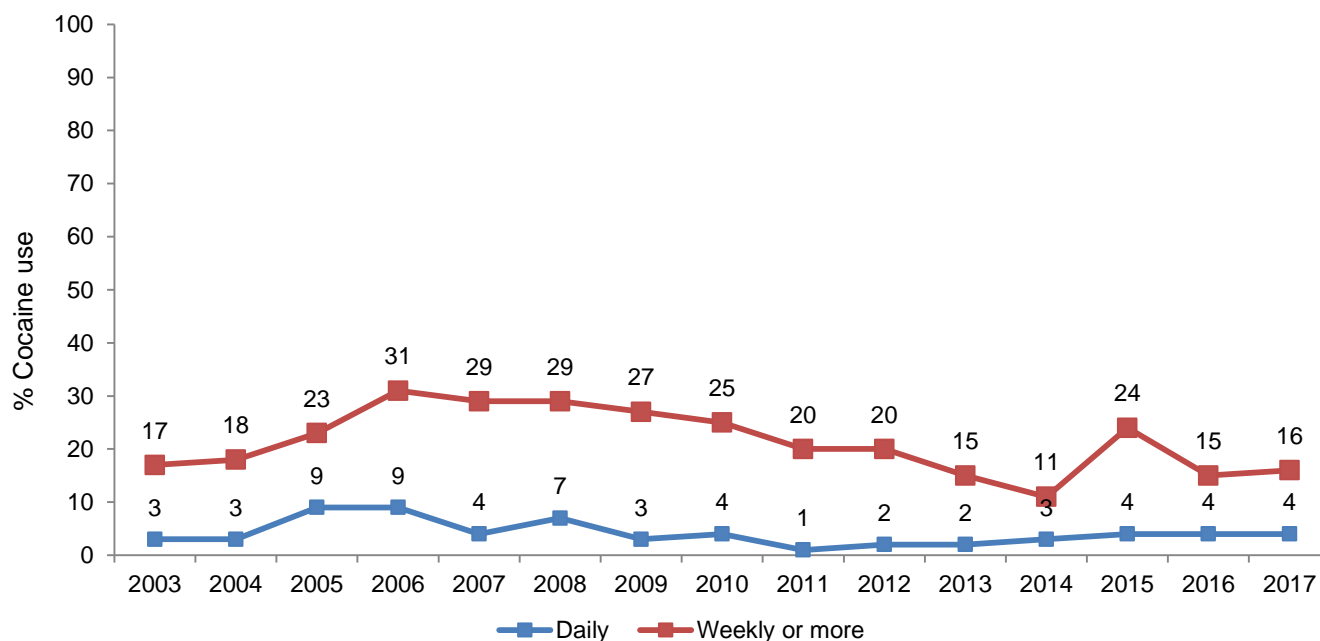
Table 18: Median days of cocaine use in the preceding six months of those who had used cocaine, 2003-2017

	National	NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
2003	4	5	4	2	-	2	5.5	-	2.5
2004	4	6	5	2	-	-	2	6	2
2005	5	12	2	3	-	-	3	1	6.5
2006	5.5	20	-	2	3	-	3	-	-
2007	5	20	3	3	-	-	4	-	1.5
2008	6	12	2.5	4.5	-	-	2	-	3
2009	5	20	2	3	-	3	1.5	4.5	2
2010	5	12	-	5	-	1	3	-	5
2011	5	10	-	3	-	2	2	-	2
2012	3	7	2	3.5	1	-	2	-	-
2013	3	6	3.5	3.5	-	-	1	-	2
2014	2	3	2	2	-	-	-	-	-
2015	4	10	3.5	5	-	1	2	-	-
2016	3 (1-180)	6	-	4	-	-	-	-	-
2017	3 (1-180)	12	3	2.5	2	2.5	-	-	-

Source: IDRS PWID interviews.

- not published due to small numbers reported (n<10).

Note: Maximum number of days, i.e. daily use = 180. See page 1 for guide.

Figure 8: 'Daily' and 'weekly or more' cocaine use among those who had used cocaine in the last six months, nationally, 2003-2017

Source: IDRS PWID interviews.

Table 19: Reports of current perceived cocaine availability and purity by PWID *who commented*, 2016-2017

	National		NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
	2016	2017								
% Current availability (n)	(N=41)	(N=51)	(n=24)	(n=6)	(n=1)	(n=4)	(n=3)	(n=5)	(n=5)	(n=3)
Very easy	22	28	38	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easy	39	31	38	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Difficult	34	35	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Very difficult	5	6	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
% Current purity (n)	(N=42)	(N=46)	(n=24)	(n=5)	(n=1)	(n=2)	(n=1)	(n=5)	(n=5)	(n=3)
High	29	46	46	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Medium	31	24	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Low	31	22	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fluctuates	10	9	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Source: IDRS PWID interviews.

- not published due to small numbers reported (n<10).

Note: The response option 'don't know' was excluded from analysis.

Table 20: Median price of last cocaine purchase among those *who commented*, 2016-2017

	Median price \$ per cap		Median price \$ per gram	
	2016	2017	2016	2017
National	50 (n=16)	50 (n=10)	400 (n=15)	380 (n=15)

Source: IDRS PWID interviews.

State data not published due to small numbers reported (n<10).

CANNABIS**Patterns of Cannabis Use****Table 21: Percentage of PWID who reported cannabis use in the preceding six months, 2003-2017**

%	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
2015	73	79	81	76	73	74	60	72	60
2016	73	76	69	77	74	73	70	72	64
2017	72	79	76	71	73	73	73	59	70

Source: IDRS PWID interviews.

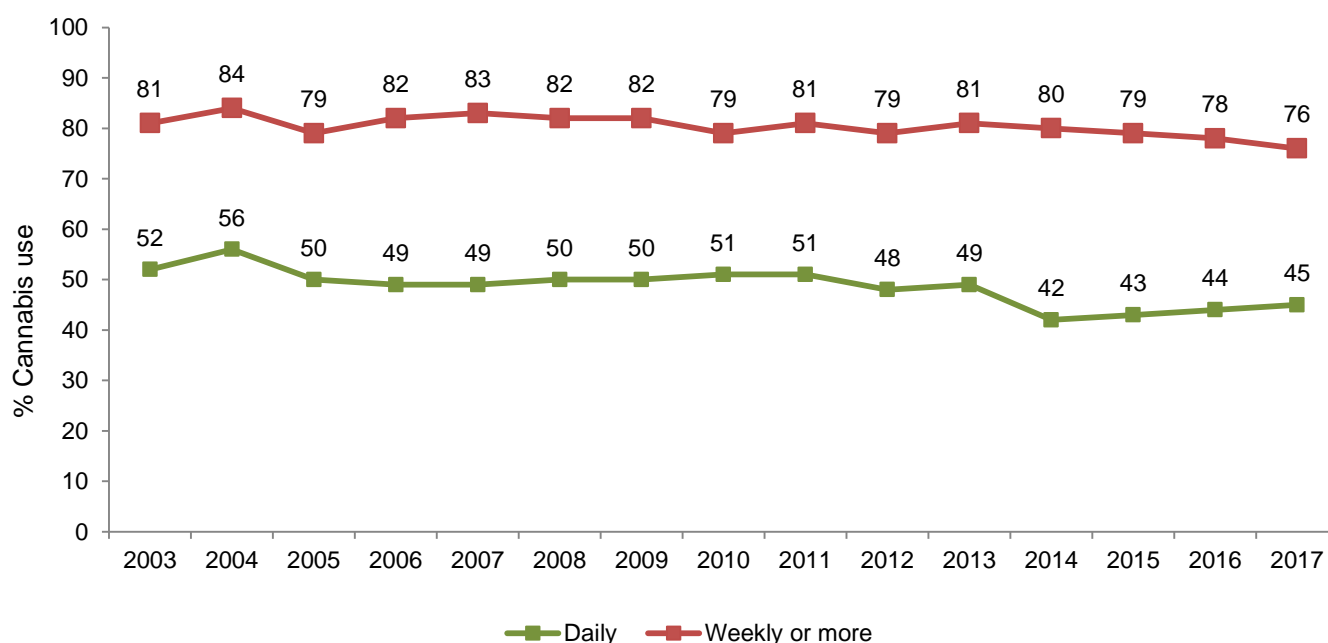
Table 22: Median days of cannabis use in the preceding six months of those who had used cannabis, 2003-2017

	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
2015	120	120	160	125	170	90	48	180	90
2016	135 (1-180)	155	180	96	168	175	60	180	72
2017	140 (1-180)	98	180	180	168	145	90	180	45

Source: IDRS PWID interviews.

Note: Maximum number of days = 180. See page 1 for guide.

The range is provided in brackets for years 2016-2017.

Figure 9: 'Daily' and 'weekly or more' cannabis use among those who had used cannabis in the last six months, nationally, 2003-2017

Source: IDRS PWID interviews.

Table 23: Reports of current perceived cannabis availability and potency by PWID who commented, 2016-2017

	National		NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
	2016	2017								
% Current availability (n)										
Hydro	(N=447)	(n=426)	(n=97)	(n=51)	(n=37)	(n=62)	(n=46)	(n=47)	(n=50)	(n=36)
Very easy	49	54	58	53	76	52	54	51	46	42
Easy	43	38	38	39	19	47	37	38	44	33
Difficult	8	8	3	8	5	0	9	11	10	25
Very difficult	1	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
Bush	(N=166)	(N=181)	(n=25)	(n=34)	(n=3)	(n=34)	(n=32)	(n=15)	(n=22)	(n=16)
Very easy	33	37	32	32	-	38	47	40	41	25
Easy	45	38	16	50	-	50	38	27	41	25
Difficult	19	22	44	15	-	12	9	33	18	44
Very difficult	4	3	8	3	-	0	6	0	0	6
% Current potency (n)										
Hydro	(N=447)	(n=418)	(n=98)	(n=51)	(n=37)	(n=61)	(n=44)	(n=47)	(n=46)	(n=34)
High	57	55	54	49	54	54	68	68	41	50
Medium	31	33	32	37	35	38	23	21	41	35
Low	4	4	7	4	3	2	2	2	4	3
Fluctuates	9	9	7	10	8	7	7	9	13	12
Bush	(N=168)	(n=181)	(n=27)	(n=35)	(n=3)	(n=33)	(n=30)	(n=15)	(n=22)	(n=16)
High	26	30	30	31	-	24	37	33	32	25
Medium	61	52	56	49	-	55	50	60	41	63
Low	10	12	11	14	-	18	3	0	23	13
Fluctuates	4	6	4	6	-	3	10	7	5	0

Source: IDRS PWID interviews.

Note: The response option 'don't know' was excluded from analysis.

Table 24: Median price of last cannabis purchase among those *who commented*, 2016-2017

	Median price \$ per gram				Median price \$ per ounce			
	Hydro		Bush		Hydro		Bush	
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017
National	20 n = 223	20 n = 215	20 n = 64	20 n = 61	280 n = 114	280 n = 129	250 n = 31	250 n = 61
NSW	20	20	20	20	300	300	-	245
ACT	20	20	20	20	250	290	-	230
VIC	20	20	-	-	250	250	-	-
TAS	22.5	20	20	20	295	265	-	-
SA	25 [#]	-	25 [#]	-	220	200	-	-
WA	25	25	-	-	325	320	-	-
NT	30	30	-	30	450	450	-	375
QLD	25	22.5	-	-	-	290	-	-

Source: IDRS PWID interviews.

- not published due to small numbers reported (n<10).

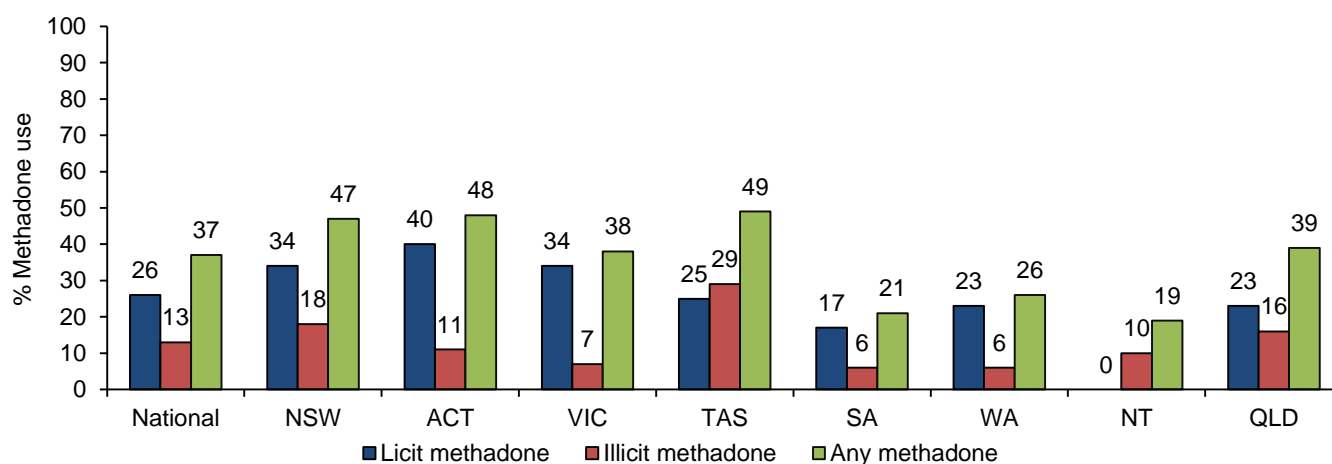
[#] SA purchase is per bag instead of per gram.

USE OF OTHER DRUGS

The following figures reflect use by people who currently inject drugs; 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 prescribed to another person.

Recent use of methadone

Figure 10: Percentage of PWID who reported the use of licit (prescribed) and illicit methadone in the preceding six months, 2017



Source: IDRS PWID interviews.

Note: Recent use includes methadone syrup and Physeptone tablets.

Methadone injection

Table 25: Percentage of PWID who reported injecting methadone (any form) in the preceding six months, 2003-2017

	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
2015	18	21	21	10	43	12	9	15	13
2016	18	21	18	6	52	7	8	13	24
2017	16	19	18	3	44	1	3	17	26

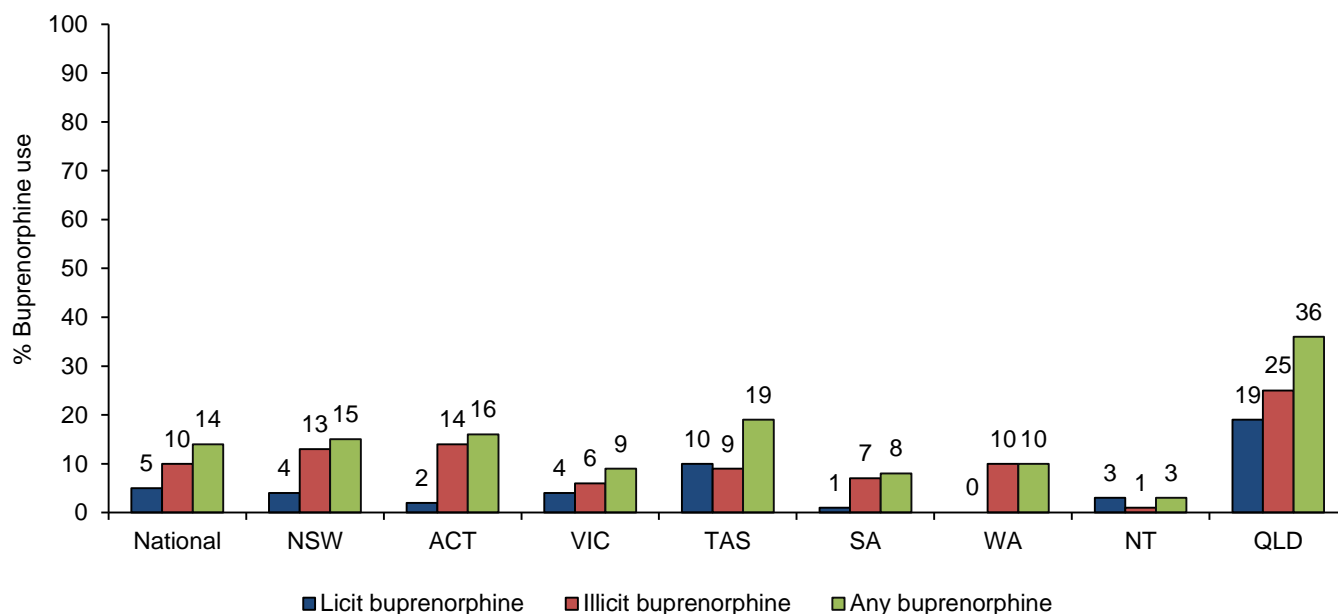
Source: IDRS PWID interviews.

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 11: Percentage of PWID who reported use of licit (prescribed) and illicit buprenorphine in the preceding six months, 2017



Source: IDRS PWID interviews.

Buprenorphine injection

Table 26: Percentage of PWID who reported injecting buprenorphine (any form) in the preceding six months, 2013-2016

	National	NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
2003	12	-	-	39	-	9	17	-	10
2004	19	6	10	43	-	21	29	-	25
2005	21	11	15	39	-	22	40	12	19
2006	26	16	32	38	-	22	35	17	38
2007	21	18	34	32	11	14	18	-	31
2008	18	12	27	24	-	13	18	14	27
2009	17	16	22	26	13	-	17	-	25
2010	17	14	29	25	-	14	13	-	24
2011	16	15	25	21	-	-	-	-	35
2012	14	13	17	20	-	-	15	-	21
2013	11	9	12	9	-	-	-	13	13
2014	12	17	-	13	-	-	18	-	21
2015	11	8	12	11	15	-	-	-	20
2016	10	11	-	6	14	-	-	-	28
2017	11	11	12	7	13	-	-	-	32

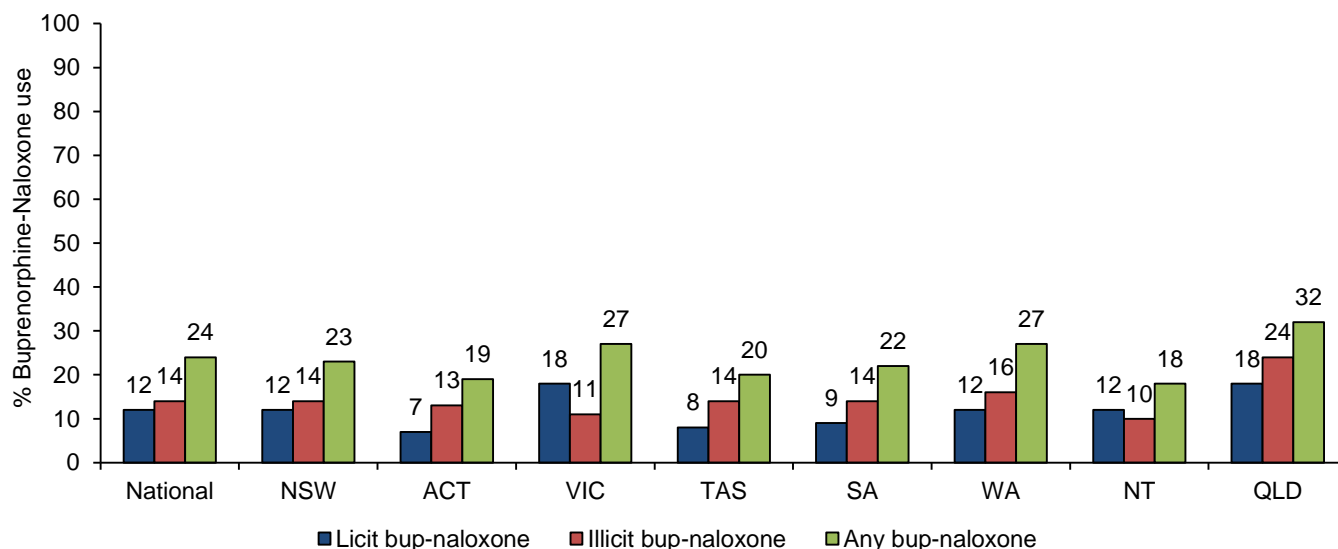
Source: IDRS PWID interviews.

Note: In 2017 nationally, recent injection of buprenorphine licit = 3% and illicit = 10%.

- not published due to small numbers reported (n<10).

Recent use of buprenorphine-naloxone film

Figure 12: Percentage of PWID who reported use of licit (prescribed) and illicit buprenorphine-naloxone film in the preceding six months, 2017



Source: IDRS PWID interviews.

Buprenorphine-naloxone film injection

Table 27: Percentage of PWID who reported recent injection of buprenorphine-naloxone (any form) in the preceding six months, 2006-2017

	National	NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
2006	4	-	-	7	-	-	14	-	9
2007	7	-	-	13	-	-	16	-	22
2008	8	-	-	16	-	-	15	-	17
2009	10	-	-	13	-	-	32	-	19
2010	13	-	-	21	-	10	25	-	21
2011	11	-	-	25	-	-	17	-	14
2012	11	-	-	19	-	13	17	-	16
2013	10	-	-	13	-	-	23	-	-
2014	10	8	10	14	-	-	16	-	11
2015	15	7	14	19	13	10	18	15	26
2016	10	9	-	12	-	-	-	-	20
2017	11	12	11	7	12	-	15	-	24

Source: IDRS PWID interviews.

Note: In 2017 nationally, recent injection of buprenorphine-naloxone licit = 3% and illicit = 10%.

Buprenorphine-naloxone was first included in 2006.

- not published due to small numbers reported (n<10).

Recent use of morphine

Table 28: Percentage of PWID who reported recent use of morphine (any form), 2003-2017

	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
2015	31	21	24	13	48	26	25	73	33
2016	29	18	16	12	51	25	17	76	36
2017	29	21	27	9	44	19	22	70	27

Source: IDRS PWID interviews.

Note: In 2017 nationally, recent use of morphine licit = 8% and illicit = 24%.

Morphine injection

Table 29: Recent injection of morphine (any form), 2003-2017

	National	NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
2003	40	20	49	39	69	42	40	80	40
2004	46	24	40	41	60	40	43	86	45
2005	41	24	30	39	55	34	48	79	28
2006	49	32	51	32	61	49	53	81	52
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
2015	28	19	21	13	48	13	23	72	32
2016	27	16	10	10	51	23	15	72	35
2017	27	19	26	7	43	14	21	70	25

Source: IDRS PWID interviews.

Note: In 2017 nationally, recent injection of morphine licit = 7% and illicit = 23%.

Recent use of oxycodone

Table 30: Percentage of PWID who reported recent use of oxycodone (any form), 2005-2017

	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
2015	25	25	17	24	28	28	25	26	26
2016	21	25	14	14	28	21	20	20	25
2017	19	29	14	12	29	19	15	17	20

Source: IDRS PWID interviews.

Note: Data collection commenced in 2005. In 2017 nationally, recent use of any oxycodone licit = 4% and illicit = 17%.

Oxycodone injection

Table 31: Recent injection of oxycodone (any form), 2005-2017

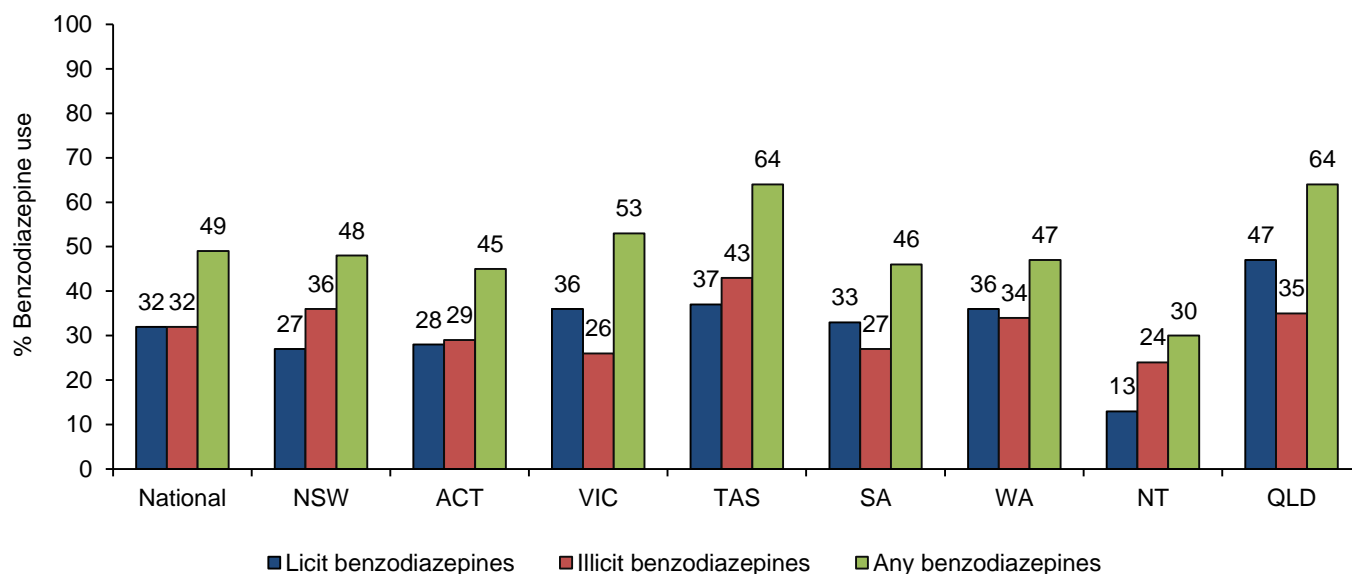
	National	NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
2005	18	11	11	15	26	12	37	10	15
2006	22	16	16	25	26	20	43	8	23
2007	27	25	23	28	30	20	43	9	38
2008	26	24	25	24	47	11	24	29	27
2009	29	26	27	24	56	11	29	30	34
2010	28	31	11	29	57	18	24	28	27
2011	31	32	17	36	44	20	31	27	41
2012	33	42	31	24	59	23	48	20	24
2013	31	37	18	22	60	15	35	23	36
2014	28	39	11	20	47	17	29	23	34
2015	19	20	14	16	27	16	18	23	20
2016	16	17	9	9	24	12	20	20	23
2017	13	26	3	7	20	9	7	13	14

Source: IDRS PWID interviews.

Note: Data collection commenced in 2005.

Recent use of benzodiazepines

Figure 13: Percentage of PWID who reported use of licit (prescribed) and illicit benzodiazepines in the preceding six months (including alprazolam), 2017



Source: IDRS PWID interviews.

Note: Recent use includes Alprazolam and other benzodiazepines.

Benzodiazepine injection

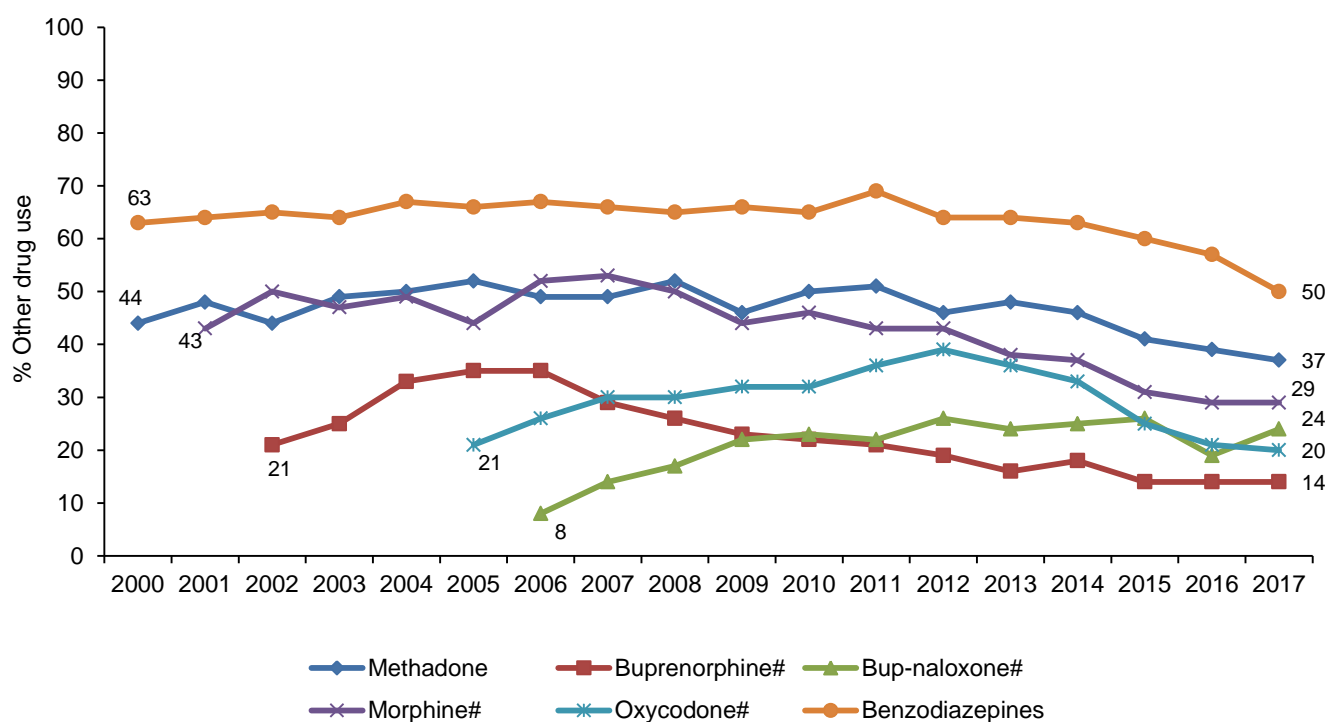
Table 32: Recent injection of benzodiazepines (any form), 2003-2017

	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
2015	6	4	1	<1	14	3	0	17	4
2016	3	1	2	1	7	2	3	10	4
2017	5	1	4	1	17	0	0	12	4

Source: IDRS PWID interviews.

Note: Recent injection includes Alprazolam and other benzodiazepines.

Figure 14: Recent use of other drugs, nationally, 2000-2017

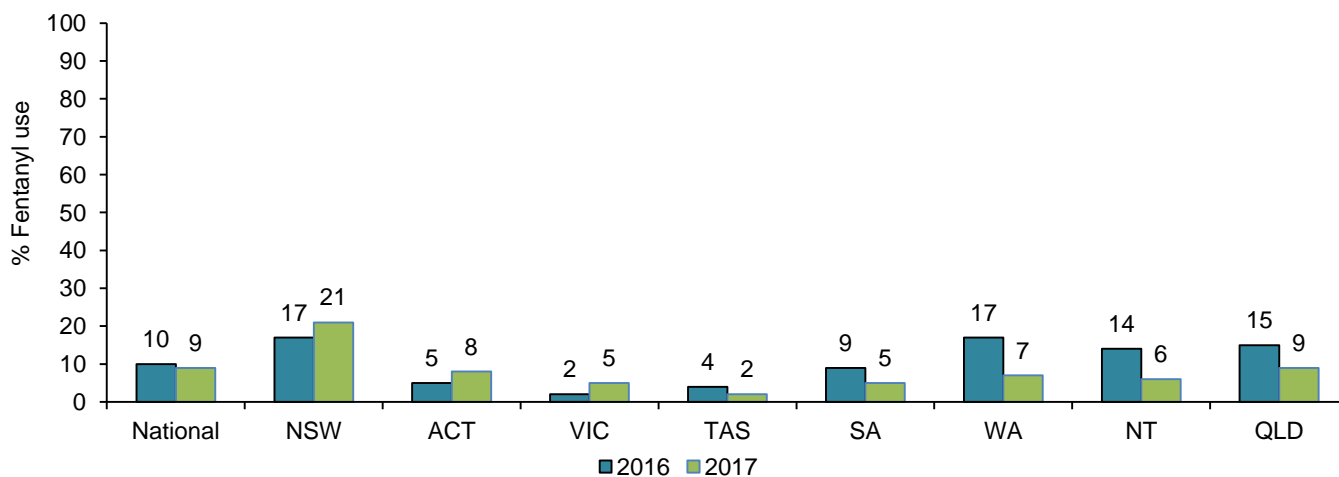


Source: IDRS PWID interviews.

Note: Data collection started in 2001 for morphine, 2002 for buprenorphine, 2005 for oxycodone, 2006 for buprenorphine-naloxone. Both illicit and licit use.

Recent use of fentanyl

Figure 15: Recent use of fentanyl (any form), 2016-2017



Source: IDRS PWID interviews.

Alcohol and tobacco

Table 33: Patterns of alcohol and tobacco use by PWID in the preceding six months, 2016-2017

	National		NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
	N=877	N=888	n=151	n=100	n=152	n=100	n=100	n=73	n=104	n=103
	2016	2017								
Alcohol	58	56	54	66	54	55	66	55	46	57
Tobacco	93	88**	89	93	92	88	90	92	73	89
Median days use										
Alcohol	24 (1-180)	24 (1-180)	12	25	48	10	24	48	48	24
Tobacco	180 (1-180)	180 (1-180)	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 34: Percentage of injection-related issues in last month, 2016-2017

	National		NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
	N=850	N=865	n=144	n=100	n=149	n=94	n=100	n=71	n=105	n=102
	2016	2017								
% Any injection related problem	66	65	67	65	60	62	61	73	63	71
% Problem:										
Scarring/bruising	47	45	49	47	39	47	48	42	39	53
Difficult injecting	41	41	42	46	38	39	34	54	35	44
Dirty hit	7	10	6	8	7	6	10	10	20	15
Infection/abscess	8	7	6	8	5	5	10	6	8	10
Thrombosis	4	5	7	2	5	4	7	6	9	4
Overdose	4	3	3	2	3	0	5	1	2	4

Source: IDRS PWID interviews.

Table 35: Injecting risk behaviour in last month, 2016-2017

	National		NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
	N=860	N=859	n=142	n=98	n=147	n=99	n=100	n=70	n=106	n=98
	2016	2017								
% Borrowed a needle	7	7	11	2	8	6	2	10	7	9
% Lent a needle	11	12	16	7	15	9	10	21	7	11
% Shared injecting equipment [^]	26	20**	24	24	13	10	23	22	25	20
% Reused own needle	38	37	47	47	36	29	35	48	25	33
% Reused own injecting equipment	55	49	53	53	37	33	61	51	60	52
% Last site of injection	(N=857)	(N=857)	(n=142)	(n=98)	(n=146)	(n=99)	(n=100)	(n=70)	(n=104)	(n=98)
Arm	74	72	63	84	77	66	78	74	65	71
Leg	5	5	6	2	3	4	4	6	14	3
Hand/wrist	11	14	19	12	10	19	10	13	14	12
Foot	2	1	1	0	1	2	1	1	2	2
Groin	3	2	3	1	3	6	0	0	2	2
Neck	5	5	7	1	6	3	7	4	3	8
Other	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1

Source: IDRS PWID interviews.

[^] includes spoons, water, tourniquets and filters and excludes needles.

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

Mental health problems

Table 36: Self-reported mental health problems experienced in the preceding six months, 2016-2017

	National		NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
	N=834	N=769	n=113	n=79	n=132	n=92	n=95	n=70	n=101	n=91
	2016	2017								
% Any self-reported mental health problem in the last six months	43	43	42	47	49	52	41	30	29	50
% self-reported mental health problem:										
Depression	29	30	31	29	37	39	33	21	22	26
Anxiety	22	24	22	19	25	32	22	21	18	32
Manic-depression/Bipolar	5	6	2	8	3	9	5	10	7	8
Schizophrenia	5	5	6	10	2	9	3	1	5	2
Posttraumatic stress disorder	7	8	8	6	5	11	2	6	6	19
Panic	5	4	2	1	2	5	4	4	7	7
Paranoia	4	4	2	5	2	7	5	3	4	3
Drug induced psychosis	4	3	2	5	2	5	4	4	2	4
% Attended health professional for self-reported mental health problem in the last six months	29	29	30	30	33	34	25	20	21	31

Source: IDRS PWID interviews.

Notes: Other mental health problems: any personality disorder (3%), other mental health problem (3%), OCD (2%), mania (1%), phobias (1%), other psychosis (1%).

General Practitioner (18%) main professional visited followed by a psychiatrist (9%), and a psychologist (7%).

CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

Table 37: Percentage of PWID that reported criminal activity, 2016-2017

	National		NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
	N=857	N=857	n=140	n=95	n=149	n=100	n=98	n=71	n=107	n=97
	2016	2017								
% Crime in the last month										
Drug dealing	26	25	23	33	17	23	34	27	20	31
Property	19	21	23	18	24	18	13	20	20	30
Fraud	4	4	4	4	2	3	0	7	7	7
Violence	4	5	7	3	5	1	8	1	3	7
% Any crime	39	40	42	40	37	34	41	36	35	53
% Victim of crime in last month	10	14*	13	24	15	9	16	7	8	19
% Arrested last 12 months	31	33	39	27	44	35	22	24	20	42

Source: IDRS PWID interviews.

OVERDOSE

Table 38: Reported lifetime and past year overdose, 2016-2017

	National N=877	National N=888	NSW n=151	ACT n=100	VIC n=152	TAS n=100	SA n=100	WA n=73	NT n=109	QLD n=103
	2016	2017								
	(N=799)	(N=809)	(n=124)	(n=90)	(n=136)	(n=98)	(n=100)	(n=68)	(n=102)	(n=91)
% Lifetime Heroin Overdose	42	42	53	49	60	12	34	41	25	51
	(N=804)	(N=803)	(n=126)	(n=91)	(n=135)	(n=98)	(n=100)	(n=68)	(n=94)	(n=91)
% Heroin overdose in the last 12 months	10	11	14	12	21	2	8	10	2	10
	(N=827)	(N=828)	(n=131)	(n=91)	(n=135)	(n=100)	(n=100)	(n=72)	(n=105)	(n=94)
% Heroin overdose in the last month	2	2	3	1	5	0	1	0	0	3
	(N=804)	(N=811)	(n=125)	(n=90)	(n=135)	(n=98)	(n=98)	(n=69)	(n=103)	(n=93)
% Lifetime Other Opioid Overdose	8	7	5	4	1	15	6	4	13	11
	(N=806)	(N=811)	(n=127)	(n=90)	(n=136)	(n=98)	(n=99)	(n=69)	(n=99)	(n=93)
% Other Opioid [#] overdose in the last 12 months	2	2	2	2	1	5	1	0	1	0
% Other Opioid overdose in the last month	0	<1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
	(N=786)	(N=804)	(n=125)	(n=88)	(n=133)	(n=98)	(n=100)	(n=68)	(n=1010)	(n=91)
% Lifetime Other Drug Overdose	18	19	15	18	6	18	28	25	30	18
	(N=791)	(N=790)	(n=127)	(n=88)	(n=133)	(n=98)	(n=100)	(n=68)	(n=85)	(n=91)
% Other drug overdose in the last 12 months	7	5	5	5	2	7	11	7	2	6
% Other drug overdose in the last month	2	2	1	1	2	1	5	2	0	2
% Main drug attributed recent other drug overdose (n)	(N=52)	(N=43)	(n=6)	(n=4)	(n=3)	(n=7)	(n=11)	(n=5)	(n=2)	(n=5)
Homebake	2	2	-	-	-	-	0	-	-	-
Other opiates	10	19	-	-	-	-	36	-	-	-
Fentanyl	21	5	-	-	-	-	0	-	-	-
Alcohol	6	19	-	-	-	-	36	-	-	-
Benzodiazepines	10	16	-	-	-	-	18	-	-	-
Cannabis	14	12	-	-	-	-	18	-	-	-
Crystal Methamphetamine	58	51	-	-	-	-	100	-	-	-
Speed	0	7	-	-	-	-	0	-	-	-
Cocaine	0	2	-	-	-	-	0	-	-	-

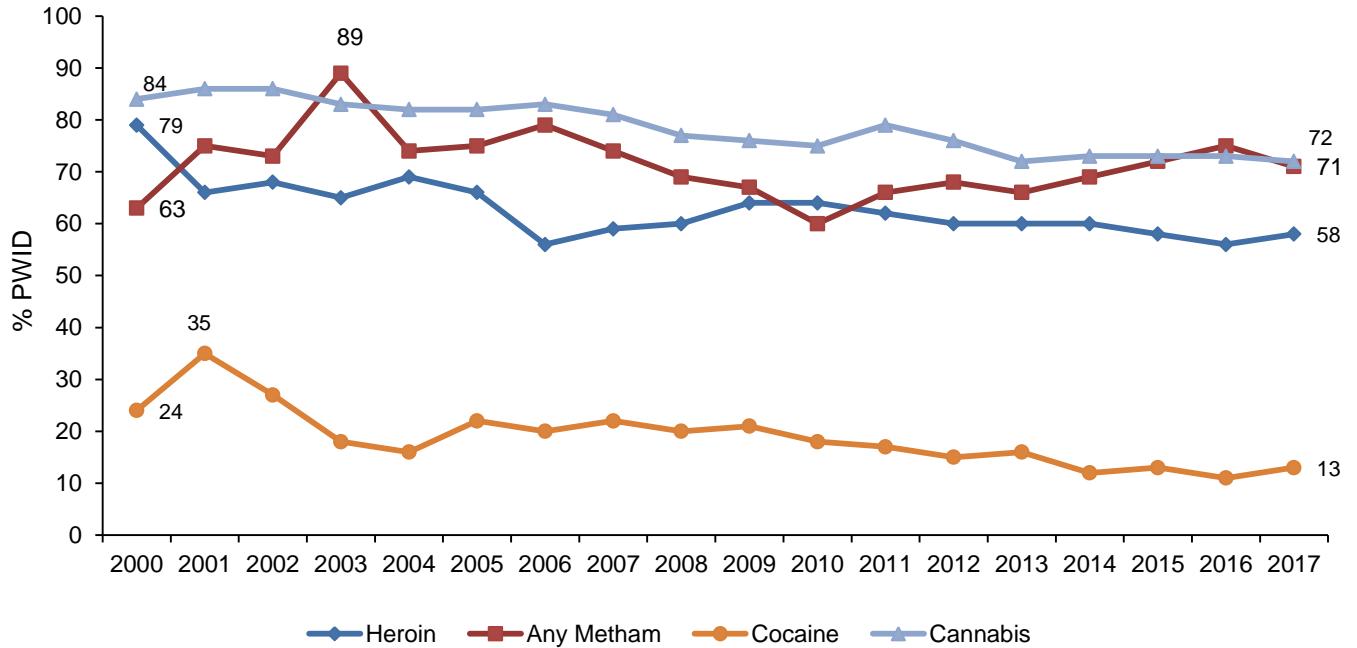
Source: IDRS participant interviews

* Among those who had overdosed in the last 12 months

Other Opioid includes methadone, morphine and oxycodone

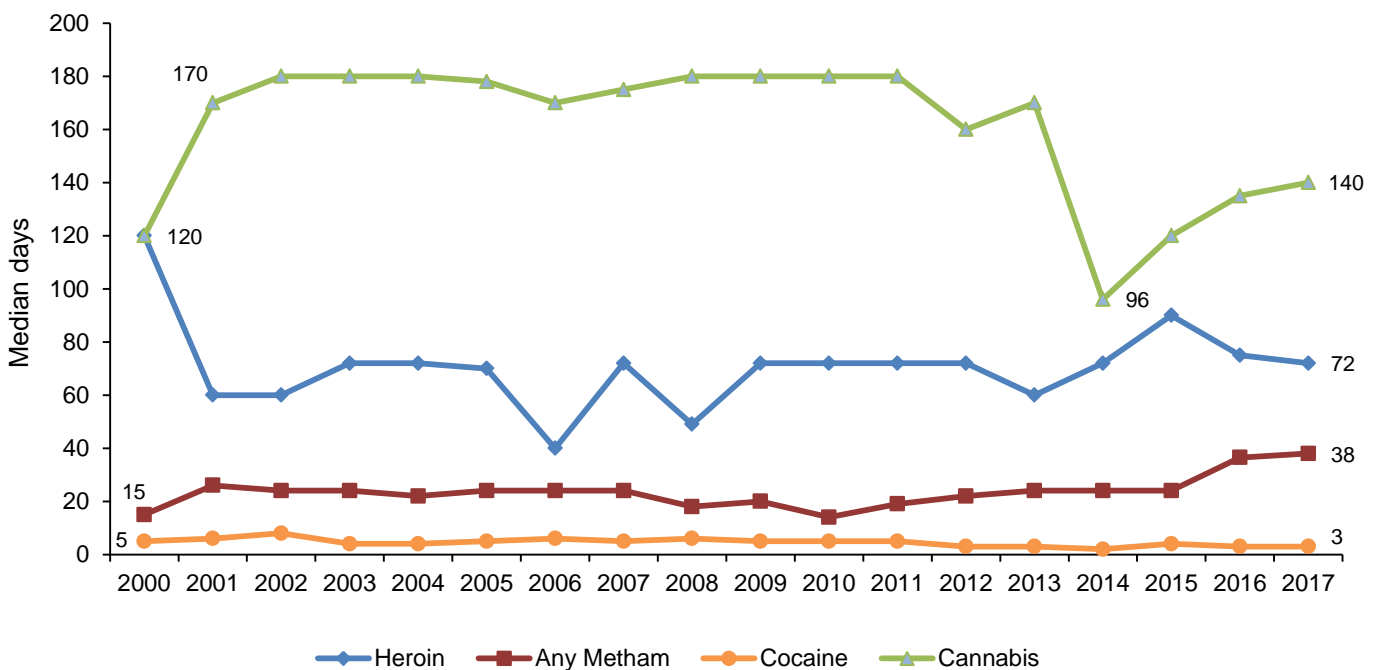
NATIONAL IDRS DRUG TRENDS

Figure 16: Recent use of any heroin, any methamphetamine, cocaine and cannabis, nationally, 2000-2017



Source: IDRS PWID interviews.

Figure 17: Median days of heroin, methamphetamine (any form), cocaine and cannabis use among participants who had recently used, nationally, 2000-2017



Source: IDRS PWID interviews.