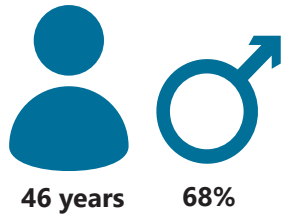


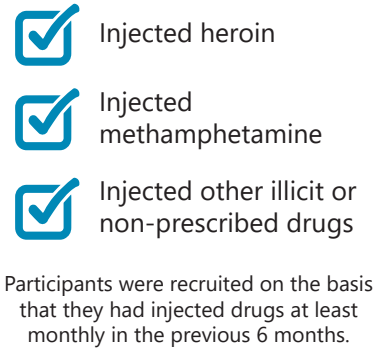
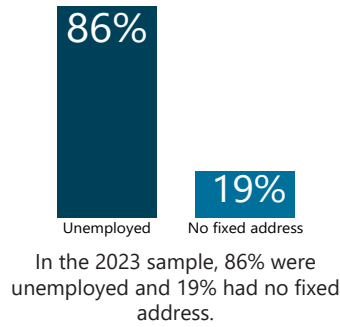
2023 SAMPLE CHARACTERISTICS



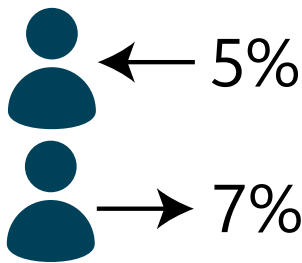
In 2023, 820 participants, recruited from all capital cities across Australia, were interviewed.



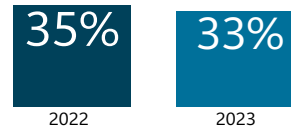
The median age in 2023 was 46, and 68% identified as male.



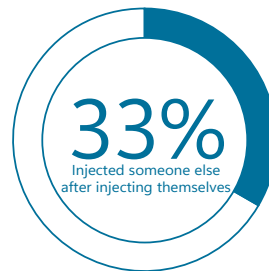
INJECTING RELATED RISKS AND HARMS



In 2023, 5% of participants reported receptive sharing in the past month, and 7% reported distributive sharing.



33% of participants reported re-using their own needles in the past month, stable from 2022 (35%).

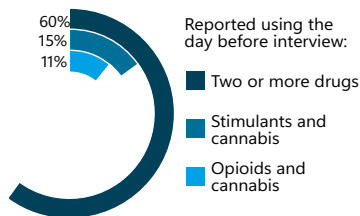


33% of participants reported injecting someone else after injecting themselves in the past month, a significant increase relative to 2022 (27%).

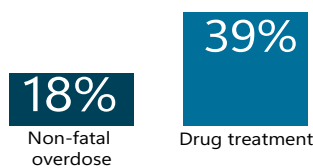


26% of participants reported having an injection-related health issue in the past month, stable from 2022 (26%).

OTHER HARMS AND HELP-SEEKING



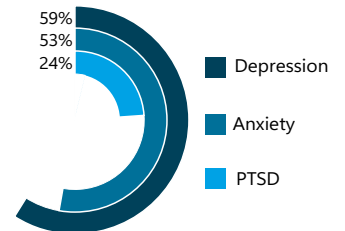
The most common patterns of poly substance use on the day preceding interview were stimulants and cannabis, and opioids and cannabis.



Past year non-fatal overdose (18%) and current drug treatment (39%) remained stable in 2023 relative to 2022.

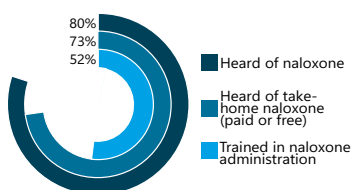


In 2023, 53% of participants reported a mental health problem in the 6 months preceding interview, and 27% had seen a mental health professional.



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

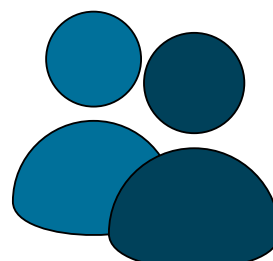
NALOXONE, HARM REDUCTION AND STIGMA



Knowledge of naloxone, and take-home naloxone, remained high in 2023, with an increase in participants reporting ever being trained in naloxone administration.



Among those who were aware of naloxone, 29% reporting using ever using naloxone to resuscitate someone who had overdosed, with 18% having done so in the past year.

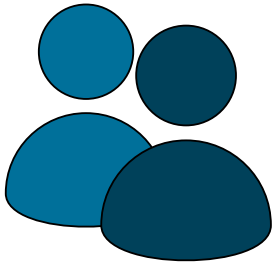


55% of the sample reported experiencing stigma because of their injecting drug use in the six months preceding interview, most commonly from police.

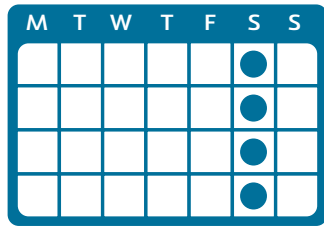


In 2023, 8% of the sample reported that they or someone else had tested the content and/or purity of their illicit drugs in Australia in the past year.

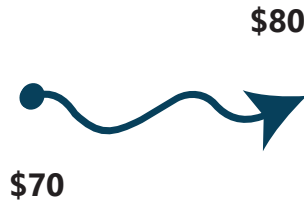
HEROIN



Past 6 month use of heroin remained stable in 2023 (56%) relative to 2022 (53%).



Of those who had recently consumed heroin, 75% reported weekly or more frequent use, stable from 2022 (77%).

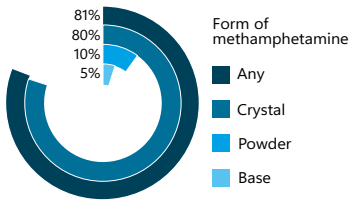


The median reported price for a point of heroin was \$80 in 2023, stable compared to \$70 in 2022.

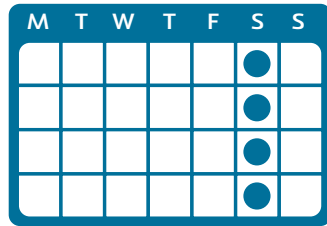


Of those who could comment, 91% perceived heroin to be 'easy' or 'very easy' to obtain (87% in 2022).

METHAMPHETAMINE



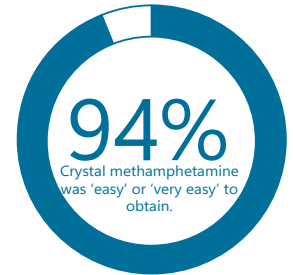
Past 6 month use of any methamphetamine, crystal, powder and base remained stable in 2023, relative to 2022.



Of those who had recently used any form of methamphetamine, 75% reported weekly or more frequent use, stable from 2022 (74%).



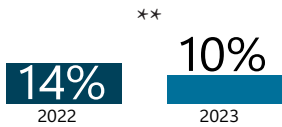
In 2023, the median reported price for a point of crystal methamphetamine was \$50 (\$50 in 2022).



Of those who could comment, 94% perceived crystal methamphetamine to be 'easy' or 'very easy' to obtain in 2023 (91% in 2022).

OTHER DRUGS

Non-prescribed morphine



Past 6 month use of non-prescribed morphine significantly decreased in 2023, relative to 2022.

Non-prescribed fentanyl



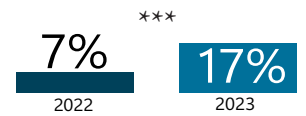
Past 6 month use of non-prescribed fentanyl remained stable between 2022 and 2023.

Non-prescribed pregabalin



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

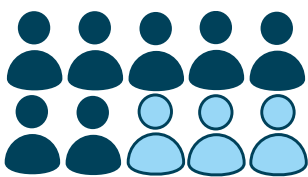
GHB/GBL/1,4-BD



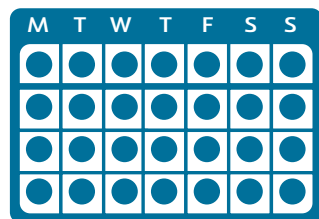
Past 6 month use of GHB/GBL/1,4-BD significantly increased in 2023, relative to 2022.

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

CANNABIS AND/OR CANNABINOID-RELATED PRODUCTS



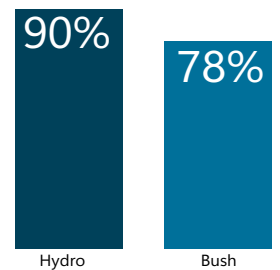
Past 6 month use of non-prescribed cannabis and/or cannabinoid-related products remained stable in 2023 (69%) relative to 2022 (72%).



Of those who had recently used non-prescribed cannabis and/or cannabinoid-related products, half reported daily use (51%), stable from 2022 (51%).



Of participants who had consumed non-prescribed cannabis and/or cannabinoid-related products in the last 6 months, 98% 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.