

AUSTRALIAN DRUG TRENDS 2012

FINDINGS FROM THE ILLICIT DRUGS REPORTING SYSTEM (EDRS)



Key findings- Drug Trend Conference Handout

The Illicit Drug Reporting System (IDRS) is a national illicit drug monitoring system intended to serve as a strategic early warning system, identifying emerging trends of local and national concern in illicit drug markets. The IDRS consists of three components: interviews with people who inject drugs regularly (PWID); interviews with key experts (KEs), who are professionals who have knowledge of drug trends and/or regular contact with users through their work; and analysis and examination of indicator data sources related to illicit drugs.

The IDRS monitors the price, purity, availability and patterns of use of heroin, methamphetamine, cocaine and cannabis. The IDRS is designed to be sensitive to trends, providing data in a timely manner, rather than describing issues in detail. It is important to note that the information from the people who inject drugs (PWID) survey is not representative of illicit drug use in the general population and nor is the information representative of all illicit drug users, but is indicative of emerging trends that warrant further investigation. Drug trends in this publication are cited by jurisdiction, although they primarily represent trends in the capital city of each jurisdiction, in which new drug trends are likely to emerge.

This handout (provided as part of the 2012 National Drug Trends Conference) presents key findings for the 2012 IDRS (PWID survey component) and may be subject to minor change. National data are available from 2000; however where trends over time are presented; only results from the most recent five years are presented here. Final figures will appear in the 2012 national and jurisdictional reports, to be released next year (April 2013). Previous years' data are available in reports published elsewhere, and are accessible on the NDARC website www.ndarc.med.unsw.edu.au

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

Injecting drug users (PWID) - those who have injected any drug 6 or more times in the last 6 months

↑ **Significant increase** from previous year (2011) compared with current year (2012)

↓ **Significant decrease** from previous year (2011) compared with current year (2012)

Guide to median days of use

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

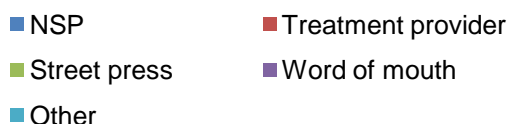
180 days = daily use	90 days = use every 2 nd day	24 days = weekly use
48 days = twice weekly use	12 days = fortnightly use	6 days = monthly use

Note: due to rounding of percentages, some columns may not add up to 100%.

KEY FINDINGS FROM THE 2012 IDRS

PARTICIPANT RECRUITMENT

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



DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

Table 1. Demographic characteristics of the sample, 2012

	National N=868	National N=924	NSW n=151	ACT n=99	VIC n=150	TAS n=106	SA n=93	WA n=100	NT n=125	QLD n=100
	2011	2012								
Mean age (years)	38	39	38	40	38	35	40	41	42	39
% Male	66	66	60	65	70	59	59	68	71	76
% English speaking background	96	97	94	97	95	100	97	98	99	97
% Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	14	16	30	15	11	10	11	1	28	16
% Heterosexual	87	90	87	93	93	87	85	87	94	92
Mean grade at school completed	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	11	10	10
% completed trade/tech qualification	40	43	46	46	41	51	41	48	30	47
% completed university/college	12	10	5	16	5	7	19	24	8	3
% Unemployed	79	84[↑]	93	77	92	77	61	79	94	82
% Full-time students	1	1	0	2	0	5	2	0	0	1
Mean income per week (\$)	N=831 \$414	N=904 \$386	N=149 \$341	N=98 \$452	N=148 \$376	N=105 \$382	N=88 \$441	N=100 \$414	N=116 \$354	N=100 \$368
% prison history	55	54	65	42	60	38	48	58	58	57
% currently in drug treatment [#]	49	44	60	54	60	49	32	41	10	35

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

[#] Includes all types of pharmacotherapy treatment and drug counselling

Please note: Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander proportion of sample is not indicative of numbers of Indigenous persons who regularly inject drugs.

DRUG USE PATTERNS

Table 2. Drug use patterns, 2012

	National N=924		NSW n=151	ACT n=99	VIC n=150	TAS n=106	SA n=93	WA n=100	NT n=125	QLD n=100
	2011	2012								
Mean age first injected	18	20	19	19	18	20	19	19	24	20
Drug of choice (%)										
Heroin	53	54	69	58	74	25	46	74	21	55
Speed	10	13	3	14	6	22	24	5	21	13
Base	1	1	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	4
Ice	9	7	12	10	7	3	12	8	1	3
<i>Any Methamphetamine</i> [^]	20	21	15	24	13	25	39	14	22	20
Morphine	9	11	3	1	3	12	4	5	46	7
Oxycodone	2	2	2	0	0	6	4	1	2	0
Cocaine	2	3	5	0	1	8	2	0	2	2
Methadone	2	2	0	4	1	10	0	1	0	1
Buprenorphine [#]	1	1	1	3	2	1	0	0	0	0
Cannabis	7	5	2	7	4	3	3	3	6	13
Other drugs	4	1	5	3	2	11	2	2	1	1
Drug injected most often last month (%)										
Heroin	42	42	62	49	72	1	36	53	2	49
Speed	12	14	2	19	7	27	28	4	23	14
Base	2	1	0	0	0	2	3	0	0	3
Ice	11	10	17	16	10	1	16	13	1	9
<i>Any methamphetamine</i> [^]	26	25	19	35	17	30	47	17	24	26
Morphine	16	16	4	0	2	20	7	12	71	14
Oxycodone	2	4	5	0	1	12	4	8	2	0
Cocaine	1	1	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Methadone	5	5	1	7	1	26	2	3	1	2
Buprenorphine [#]	5	4	1	7	7	1	0	5	0	7
Other drugs	3	3	5	2	0	10	3	2	1	1
Injection frequency last month (%)										
Not in last month	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	2	1
Weekly or less	20	18	14	18	23	16	27	12	14	21
More than weekly (but less than daily)	38	35	34	40	35	58	33	37	15	35
Once daily	18	19	14	15	19	13	12	15	40	21
2-3 times daily	20	21	23	22	18	9	22	27	29	19
> 3 times a day	4	6	15	4	5	4	7	8	1	3

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

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

[#] Includes buprenorphine-naloxone (Suboxone)

HEROIN

Patterns of Heroin Use

Table 3. Proportion of PWID who reported use of heroin in the preceding six months, 2003-2012

	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

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

Table 4. Median days of heroin use in the preceding six months by those who had used heroin, 2003-2012[#]

	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	6 [^]	19	20	13	52
2007	72	96	48	90	4 [^]	48	72	30 [^]	28
2008	49	72	60	81	2 [^]	48	48	6	48
2009	72	96	48	51	6	30	96	17	72
2010	72	96	60	74	3 [^]	24	55	4 [^]	90
2011	72	90	66	63	4	72	68	21 [^]	66
2012	72	96	72	72	6[^]	48	90	4.5	72

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

[#] Among those who had used. Maximum number of days, i.e. daily use = 180. See page 1 for guide.[^] Small numbers reported; interpret with caution (n<10)

Forms used

Table 5. Reports of heroin forms used in the last six months of those who had used heroin, 2012

	National		NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
	2011	2012								
Used last 6 months (%)	N=535	N=549	n=134	n=73	n=126	n=9 [^]	n=48	n=80	n=14	n=65
White/off-white powder or rock	88	93[↑]	96	93	94	100	81	88	100	92
Brown powder or rock	42	48	51	47	38	22	50	59	0	60
Form most used last 6 months	N=514	N=534	n=131	n=69	n=125	n=9 [^]	n=47	n=75	n=14	n=64
White powder or rock	77	81	84	86	91	100	72	55	100	83
Brown powder or rock	19	16	16	12	8	0	23	31	0	17
Other colour	2	3	0	2	1	0	5	14	0	0

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

[^]Small numbers reported; interpret with caution (n<10)Table 6. Use of heat and acid in the preparation of last heroin injection among recent[^] heroin users who commented, 2012

	National		NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
	2011	2012								
Heated in the last injection (%)	N=493 38	N=522 32	n=130 35	n=68 43	n=122 14	n=8 [^] 0	n=45 38	n=76 42	n=9 [^] 56	n=64 34
Acid in the last injection (%)	N=481 4	N=503 3	n=114 4	n=68 2	n=122 0	n=8 [^] 0	n=45 13	n=73 3	n=9 [^] 11	n=64 0
Main Colour[#]	N=167	N=147	n=41	n=20	n=14	n=0	n=18	n=31	n=1 [^]	n=22
White	56	52	39	65	71	0	56	29	100	77
Brown	41	44	56	20	29	0	39	71	0	23
Other	3	4	5	15	0	0	6	0	0	0

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

[^]Recent = use in the last six months preceding interview[#]Among those who reported either heating or using acid to prepare their last injection of heroin

Availability, Purity and Price

Table 7. Reports of current heroin availability and purity by PWID who commented, 2012

	National		NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
	2011	2012								
Current availability (%)	N=492	N=519	n=132	n=69	n=121	n=7 [^]	n=50	n=71	n=12	n=57
Very easy	48	51	38	56	73	0	48	59	8	33
Easy	38	36	46	38	24	14	44	32	33	40
Difficult	11	11	14	6	3	57	8	6	25	25
Very difficult	3	2	2	0	0	29	0	3	33	2
Current purity (%)	N=485	N=504	n=127	n=69	n=118	n=8 [^]	n=46	n=69	n=11	n=56
High	10	13	13	16	7	25	9	20	27	9
Medium	35	34	33	38	31	63	30	36	55	32
Low	42	40	38	32	49	13	50	30	18	50
Fluctuates	12	13	17	14	14	0	11	13	0	9

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

[^] Small numbers reported; interpret with caution (n<10)

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

Table 8. Median price of last heroin purchase, 2011-2012

	Median price \$ per cap		Median price \$ per gram	
	2011	2012	2011	2012
NSW	50	50	300	350
ACT	50	50	300	300
VIC	50	50	250	300
TAS	75 [^]	50[^]	400 [^]	-
SA	100	100	400 [^]	400
WA	100 [^]	100[^]	650 [^]	600
NT	80 [^]	110[^]	550 [^]	125[^]
QLD	50	50	400 [^]	400

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

[^] Small numbers reported; interpret with caution (n<10)

METHAMPHETAMINE

Patterns of Methamphetamine Use

Table 9. Proportion of PWID who reported use of any form of methamphetamine[^] in the preceding six months, 2003-2012

	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

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

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

Table 10. Proportion of PWID who reported use of speed powder in the preceding six months, 2003-2012

	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

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

Table 11. Proportion of PWID who reported use of base methamphetamine in the preceding six months, 2003-2012

	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

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

Table 12. Proportion of PWID who reported use of ice/crystal methamphetamine in the preceding six months, 2003-2012

	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

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

Table 13. Median days of methamphetamine use in the preceding six months among those who had used methamphetamine, 2012[#]

	National		NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
	2011	2012								
Speed	10	10	5	14	5	12	13	4	15	6
Base	6	6	3.5	3	2	8	12	3 [^]	6.5 [^]	20
Ice/crystal	10	12	24	13	6	5	11	8	12	16.5
Liquid	4	4	21 [^]	8 [^]	32.5 [^]	3 [^]	4.5	3.5 [^]	2 [^]	5
Any form[@]	19	22	24	32	12	23	27	12	20.5	20

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

[#] Among those who had used. Maximum number of days, i.e. daily use = 180. See page 1 for guide.[^] Small numbers reported; interpret with caution (n<10)[@] Includes speed powder, base, ice/crystal and liquid forms.**Table 14. Reports of current methamphetamine availability by PWID who commented, 2012**

	National		NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
	2011	2012								
Speed (%)	N=313	N=295	n=25	n=38	n=31	n=72	n=39	n=27	n=45	n=18
Very easy	35	45*	32	58	48	40	62	59	27	44
Easy	45	44	48	39	39	46	31	33	62	44
Difficult	16	11	20	3	10	14	8	7	11	11
Very difficult	4	<1	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
Base (%)	N=130	N=114	n=16	n=10	n=2 [^]	n=40	n=26	n=1 [^]	n=5 [^]	n=14
Very easy	32	35	38	50	0	25	54	0	0	36
Easy	42	44	25	20	0	63	39	100	60	36
Difficult	25	18	38	20	50	13	8	0	40	14
Very difficult	1	4	0	10	50	0	0	0	0	14
Ice/crystal (%)	N=307	N=376	n=94	n=56	n=49	n=37	n=47	n=41	n=24	n=28
Very easy	40	46	42	57	61	14	47	59	13	61
Easy	43	38	45	34	31	38	43	32	54	29
Difficult	15	14	13	5	8	41	11	10	33	11
Very difficult	2	2	1	4	0	8	0	0	0	0

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

[^] Small numbers reported; interpret with caution (n<10)

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

Table 15. Reports of current methamphetamine purity by PWID who commented, 2012

	National		NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
	2011	2012								
Speed (%)	N=313	N=288	n=22	n=37	n=28	n=71	n=39	n=29	n=45	n=17
High	20	22	36	24	25	10	33	45	13	0
Medium	31	29	18	41	21	25	28	10	33	71
Low	33	31	41	24	46	37	8	21	44	24
Fluctuates	16	18	5	11	7	28	31	24	9	6
Base (%)	N=127	N=112	n=15	n=10	n=2	n=38	n=26	n=1 [^]	n=5 [^]	n=15
High	30	31	27	10	50	26	42	0	20	47
Medium	39	30	40	30	50	34	31	0	20	13
Low	16	23	27	50	0	16	12	0	60	33
Fluctuates	15	15	7	10	0	24	15	100	0	7
Ice/crystal (%)	N=299	N=365	n=88	n=53	n=50	n=37	n=46	n=40	n=24	n=27
High	40	42	26	45	54	62	35	48	30	52
Medium	31	30	43	15	20	22	33	28	58	26
Low	14	13	19	19	12	5	7	5	13	19
Fluctuates	16	15	11	21	14	11	26	20	0	4

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

[^] Small numbers reported; interpret with caution (n<10)

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

Table 16. Median price of last methamphetamine purchase, 2011-2012[#]

	Median price \$ per point						Median price \$ per gram					
	Speed powder		Base		Ice/crystal		Speed powder		Base		Ice/crystal	
	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012
NSW	50	50	50 [^]	50	50	50	190 [^]	150[^]	350 [^]	250[^]	400	400
ACT	50	50	50 [^]	20[^]	92.5	100	235	250	250 [^]	200[^]	600 [^]	575
VIC	50	75	90 [^]	-	100	100	200	200	800 [^]	450[^]	800	500
TAS	50	50	50	50	50	60	300	300	300 [^]	300	-	350
SA	100	100	75	100	75	100	-	350[^]	700 [^]	700[^]	575 [^]	500[^]
WA	100	100	-	100[^]	100	100	550 [^]	700[^]	-	-	600 [^]	750[^]
NT	100	150	150 [^]	100[^]	150	150	400	275[^]	700 [^]	-	1000 [^]	700[^]
QLD	100	100[^]	80	75[^]	100	100	400 [^]	775[^]	300 [^]	550[^]	400 [^]	725[^]

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

[#] Among those who had used in the last 6 months

[^] Small numbers reported; interpret with caution (n<10)

COCAINE

Patterns of Cocaine Use

Table 17. Proportion of PWID who reported using cocaine in the preceding six months, 2003-2012

	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

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

Table 18. Median days of cocaine use in the preceding six months of those who had used cocaine, 2003-2012[#]

	National	NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
2003	4	5	4	2	4 [^]	2	5.5	2 [^]	2.5
2004	4	6	5	2	1.5 [^]	1.5 [^]	2	6	2
2005	5	12	2	3	4.5 [^]	3.5	3	1	6.5
2006	5.5	20	3 [^]	2	3	1.5 [^]	3	3 [^]	3 [^]
2007	5	20	3	3	2 [^]	2 [^]	4	2 [^]	1.5
2008	6	12	2.5	4.5	4.5 [^]	1.5 [^]	2	8 [^]	3
2009	5	20	2	3	2.5 [^]	3	1.5	4.5	2
2010	5	12	2 [^]	5	3 [^]	1	3	5.5 [^]	5
2011	5	10	8 [^]	3	2 [^]	2	2	1 [^]	2
2012	3	7	2	3.5	1	3[^]	2	2[^]	4[^]

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

[#] Among those who had used in the last 6 months. Maximum number of days, i.e. daily use = 180. See page 1 for guide.[^] Small numbers reported; interpret with caution (n<10)

Availability, Purity and Price

Table 19. Reports of current cocaine availability and purity by PWID *who commented*, 2012

	National		NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
	2011	2012								
Current availability (%)	N=83	N=80	n=44	n=8 [^]	n=4 [^]	n=11	n=7 [^]	n=2 [^]	n=2 [^]	n=2 [^]
Very easy	25	20	30	25	0	9	0	0	0	0
Easy	43	45	41	37	75	55	29	50	50	100
Difficult	27	25	25	13	0	27	43	50	50	0
Very difficult	5	10	5	25	25	9	29	0	0	0
Current purity (%)	N=84	N=74	n=42	n=8 [^]	n=4 [^]	n=9 [^]	n=5 [^]	n=2 [^]	n=2 [^]	n=2 [^]
High	21	23	14	0	25	67	40	0	50	50
Medium	32	49[↑]	48	88	75	33	20	50	50	0
Low	32	22	26	12	0	0	40	50	0	50
Fluctuates	14	7	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

[^] Small numbers reported; interpret with caution (n<10)

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

Table 20. Median price of last cocaine purchase, 2011-2012

	Median price \$ per cap		Median price \$ per gram	
	2011	2012	2011	2012
NSW	50	50	300	375[^]
ACT	50 [^]	50[^]	330 [^]	350[^]
VIC	-	-	400 [^]	500[^]
TAS	-	80[^]	-	400[^]
SA	50 [^]	-	300 [^]	-
WA	-	-	-	-
NT	-	-	-	-
QLD	-	-	290 [^]	-

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

[^] Small numbers reported; interpret with caution (n<10)

CANNABIS

Patterns of Cannabis Use

Table 21. Proportion of PWID who reported cannabis use in the preceding six months, 2003-2012

	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

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

Table 22. Median days of cannabis use in the preceding six months of those who had used cannabis, 2003-2012[#]

	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

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

[#] Among those who had used in the last 6 months Maximum number of days = 180. See page 1 for guide

Availability, Potency and Price

Table 23. Reports of current cannabis availability and potency by PWID who commented, 2012

	National		NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
	2011	2012								
Current availability (%)										
Hydro	N=548	N=536	n=93	n=62	n=73	n=74	n=50	n=62	n=74	n=48
Very easy	55	52	44	58	74	51	50	74	30	35
Easy	39	40	43	39	21	45	36	23	68	46
Difficult	7	8	13	3	6	4	14	3	3	19
Very difficult	<1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bush	N=240	N=230	n=31	n=25	n=7 [^]	n=60	n=40	n=24	n=29	n=14
Very easy	33	35	10	56	86	35	28	46	35	29
Easy	43	46	55	32	14	60	43	29	48	43
Difficult	21	17	19	12	0	5	30	25	17	29
Very difficult	3	2	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current potency (%)										
Hydro	N=549	N=527	n=89	n=61	n=73	n=73	n=48	n=62	n=74	n=47
High	58	59	70	53	58	64	52	69	39	62
Medium	30	29	18	31	36	23	29	18	54	21
Low	4	3	7	0	1	1	4	2	4	4
Fluctuates	9	9	6	16	6	11	15	11	3	13
Bush	N=237	N=224	n=29	n=25	n=7 [^]	n=60	n=38	n=24	n=28	n=13
High	23	20	10	28	14	23	32	4	7	31
Medium	60	52	62	48	71	45	47	79	39	54
Low	12	24[↑]	17	16	0	28	16	17	54	15
Fluctuates	6	4	10	8	14	3	5	0	0	0

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

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

Table 24. Median price of last cannabis purchase, 2011-2012

	Median price \$ per gram				Median price \$ per ounce			
	Hydro		Bush		Hydro		Bush	
	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012
NSW	20	20	20	20	300	320	260 [^]	280[^]
ACT	20	20	20	20	300	290	240	220[^]
VIC	20	20	20 [^]	20[^]	250	250	210 [^]	240[^]
TAS	25	25	25 [^]	25	300	250	200	200[^]
SA	25 [^]	25[#]	25 [^]	25[#]	210	220	220	180[^]
WA	25 [^]	25	20 [^]	25	350	350	300 [^]	250[^]
NT	30	30	15 [^]	30	450	420	210 [^]	300[^]
QLD	25	25	25 [^]	25[^]	300	300[^]	195 [^]	60[^]

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

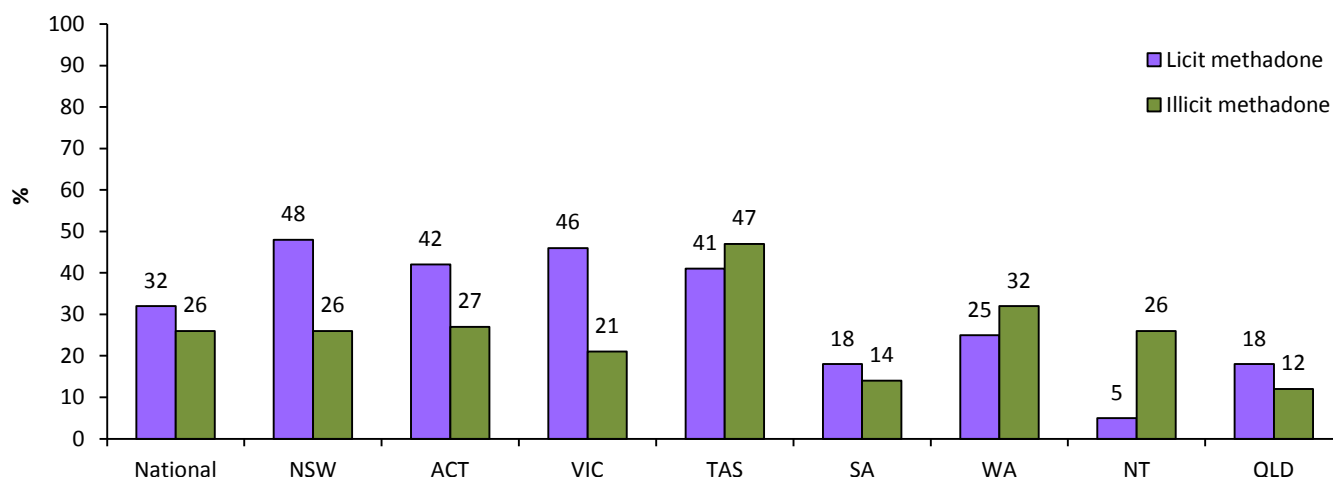
[^] Small numbers reported; interpret with caution (n<10)[#] SA purchase is per bag instead of per gram

USE OF OTHER DRUGS

The following figures reflect use by current injecting drug users; 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 directly prescribed to another person.

Recent use of methadone

Figure 1: Proportion of PWID who reported the use of licit (prescribed) and illicit methadone (any form) in the preceding six months, 2012



Source: IDRS PWID interviews

Note: Recent use includes methadone syrup and Physeptone tablets

Methadone injection

Table 25. Proportion of PWID who reported injecting methadone in the preceding six months, 2003-2012[#]

	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

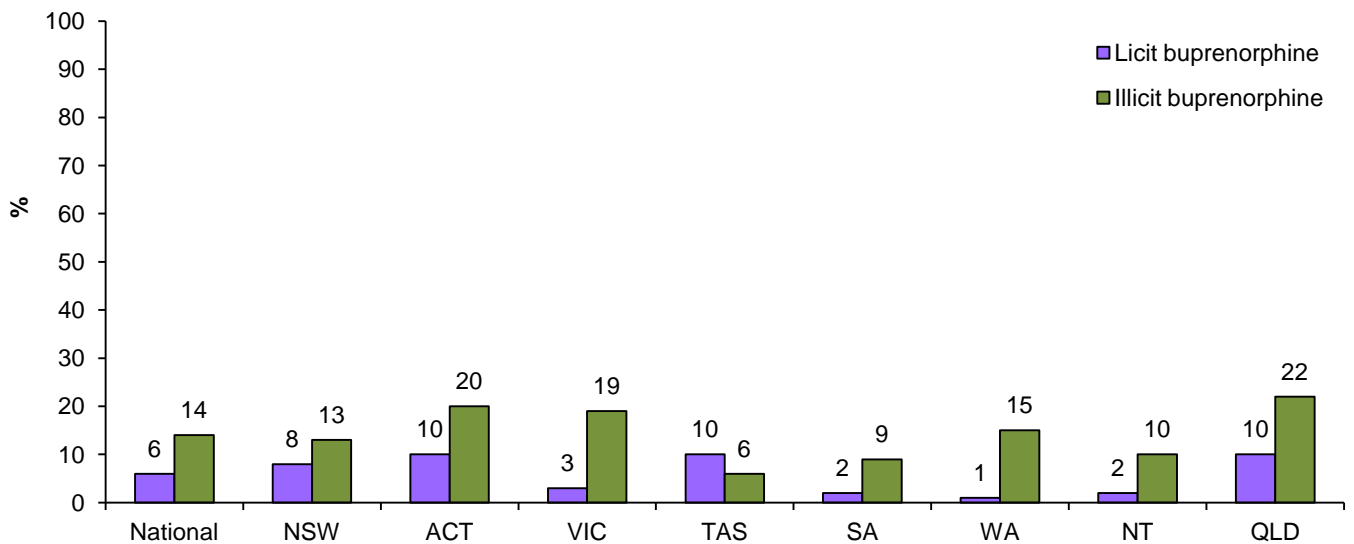
Source: IDRS PWID interviews

[#] From 2003 these figures include licit and illicit methadone and Physeptone

Note: Recent injection includes methadone syrup and Physeptone tablets

Recent use of buprenorphine

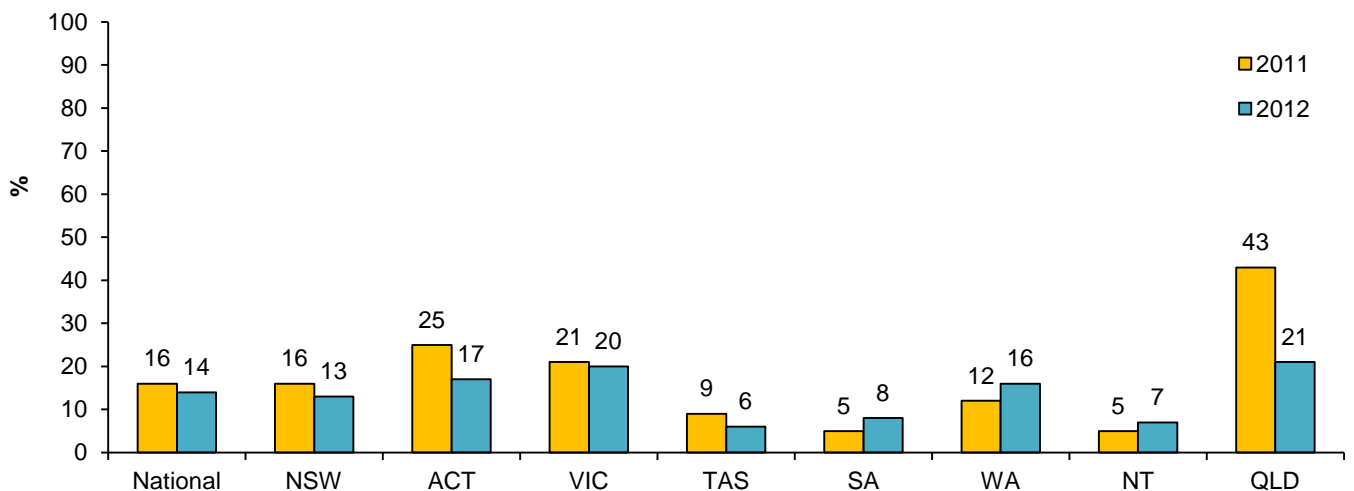
Figure 2: Proportion of PWID who reported use of licit (prescribed) and illicit buprenorphine in the preceding six months, 2012



Source: IDRS PWID interviews

Buprenorphine injection

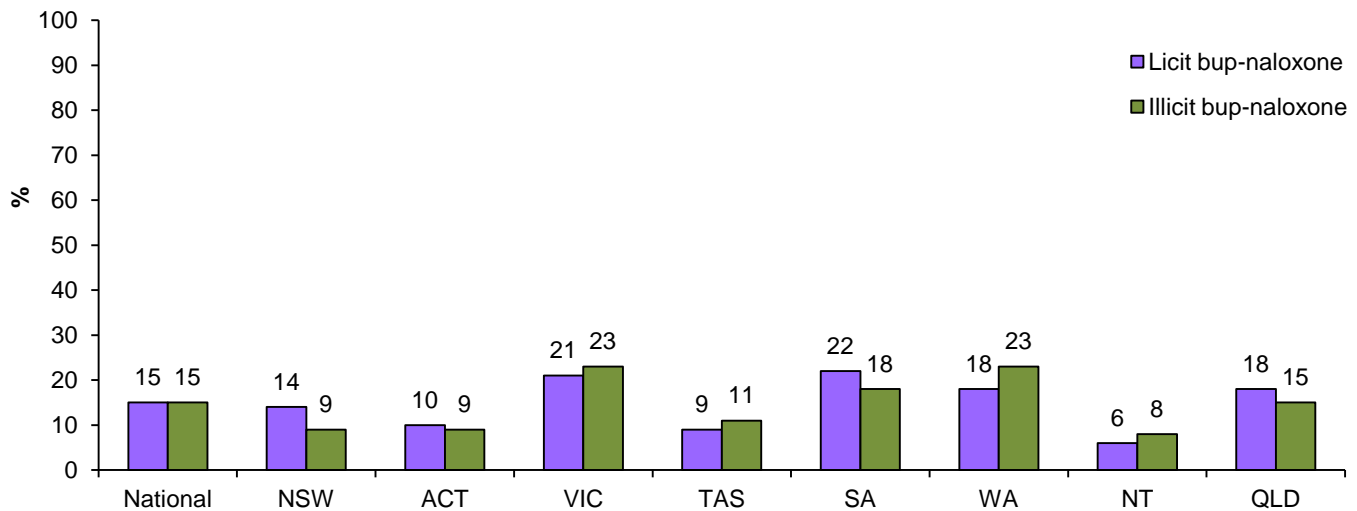
Figure 3: Recent injection of buprenorphine (any form) among the national sample, by jurisdiction, 2011-2012



Source: IDRS PWID interviews

Recent use of buprenorphine-naloxone

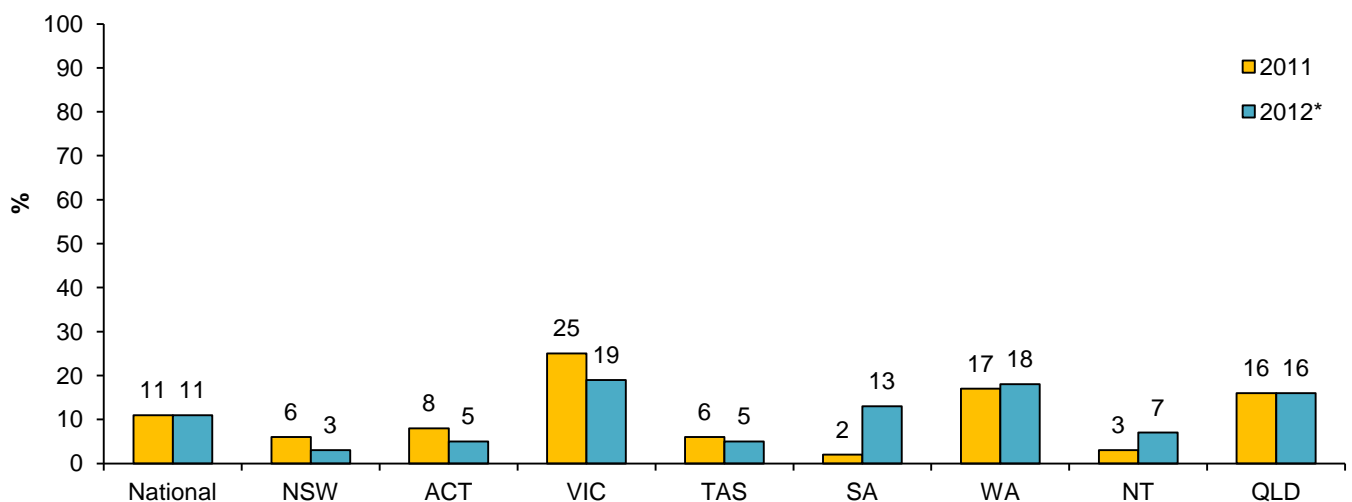
Figure 4: Proportion of PWID who reported use of licit (prescribed) and illicit buprenorphine-naloxone in the preceding six months, 2012



Source: IDRS PWID interviews
 Note: Recent use includes buprenorphine-naloxone TABLET and FILM

Buprenorphine-naloxone injection

Figure 5: Recent injection of buprenorphine-naloxone (any form) among the national sample, by jurisdiction, 2011-2012



Source: IDRS PWID interviews
 * Recent injection includes buprenorphine-naloxone TABLET and FILM

Recent use of morphine

Table 26. Proportion of PWID who reported recent use of morphine (any form), 2003-2012

	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

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

Note: In 2012 nationally, recent use of morphine licit = 9% and illicit =38%

Morphine injection

Table 27. Recent injection of morphine (any form) among the national sample, by jurisdiction, 2007-2012

	National	NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
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

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

Note: In 2012 nationally, recent injection of morphine licit = 7% and illicit =37%

Recent use of oxycodone

Table 28. Proportion of PWID who reported recent use of oxycodone (any form), 2005-2012

	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

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

Note: Data collection commenced in 2005.

In 2012 nationally, recent use of oxycodone licit = 7% and illicit =35%

Oxycodone injection

Table 29. Recent injection of oxycodone (any form) among the national sample, by jurisdiction, 2007-2012

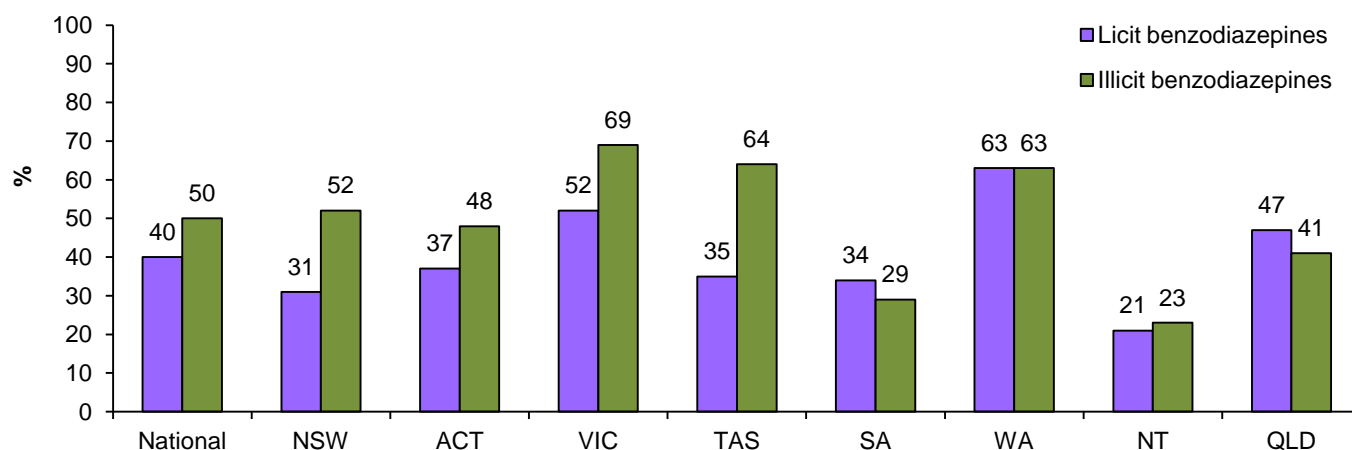
	National	NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
2007	27	25	23	28	30	20	43	9	38
2008	26	24	25	24	47	11	24	29	27
2009	29	26	27	24	56	11	29	30	34
2010	28	31	11	29	57	18	24	28	27
2011	31	32	17	36	44	20	31	27	41
2012	33	42	31	24	59	23	48	20	24

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

Note: In 2012 nationally, recent injection of oxycodone licit = 4% and illicit =32%

Recent use of benzodiazepines

Figure 6: Proportion of PWID who reported use of licit (prescribed) and illicit benzodiazepines in the preceding six months, 2012



Source: IDRS PWID interviews

Note: Recent use includes Alprazolam and other benzodiazepines

Benzodiazepine injection

Table 30. Recent injection of benzodiazepines (any form) among the national sample, by jurisdiction, 2003-2012

	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

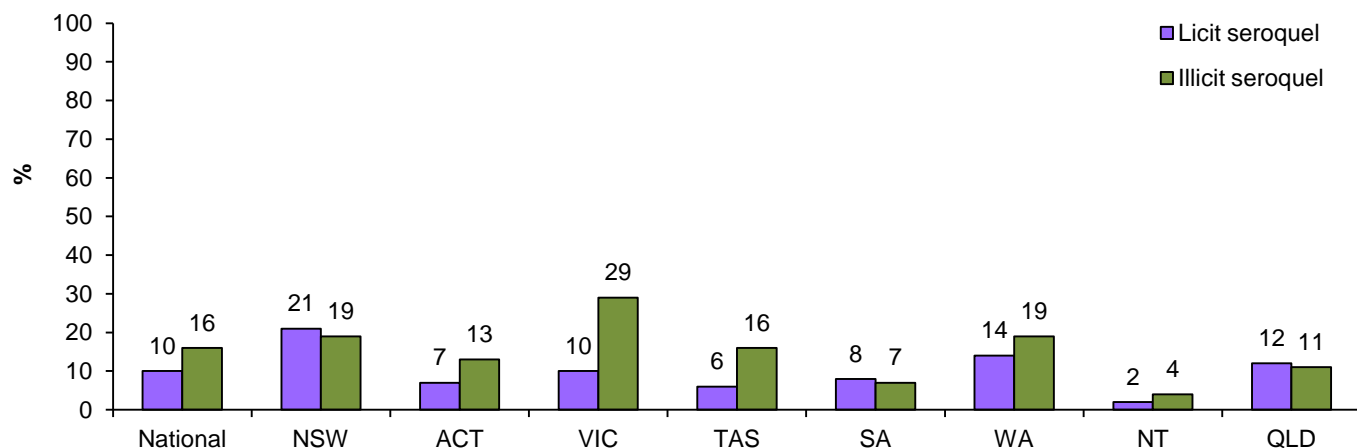
Source: IDRS PWID interviews

Note: Recent injection includes Alprazolam and other benzodiazepines

In 2012 nationally, recent injection of any benzodiazepine licit = 1% and illicit =7%

Recent use of Seroquel

Figure 7: Proportion of PWID who reported use of licit (prescribed) and illicit seroquel in the preceding six months, 2012



Source: IDRS PWID interviews

Note: Recent Seroquel use (any form) in 2012 = 25%, 2011 = 22%

Alcohol and tobacco

Table 31. Patterns of alcohol and tobacco use by PWID in the preceding six months, 2012

	National N=		NSW n=151	ACT n=99	VIC n=150	TAS n=	SA n=93	WA n=	NT n=125	QLD n=100
	2011	2012								
Recent use (%)										
Alcohol	65	64	61	65	69	74	66	67	54	60
Tobacco	94	93	95	94	95	88	96	91	93	93
Median days used by those who had used[#]										
Alcohol	24	24	12	54	24	27	12	12	24	12
Tobacco	180	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 32. Proportion of injection-related issues in last month, 2012

	National N=924		NSW n=151	ACT n=99	VIC n=150	TAS n=106	SA n=93	WA n=100	NT n=125	QLD n=100
	2011	2012								
Infection/abscess (%)	10	8	7	5	10	9	13	7	9	7
Dirty hit	17	20	9	14	13	14	37	16	47	15
Scarring/bruising	45	39	40	37	39	42	49	27	42	36
Difficult injecting	37	34	39	30	26	46	47	27	35	34
Thrombosis	6	5	5	5	5	3	8	3	5	8
Overdose	5	5	4	1	5	2	8	1	19	1

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

Table 33. Injecting risk behaviour in last month, 2012

	National N=924		NSW n=151	ACT n=99	VIC n=150	TAS n=106	SA n=93	WA n=100	NT n=125	QLD n=100
	2011	2012								
Borrowed a needle (%)	11	7↓	11	8	11	2	5	9	2	7
Lent a needle (%)	16	14	16	16	25	9	10	14	3	19
Shared injecting equipment [^] (%)	25	25	24	25	25	26	17	17	28	36
Reused own needle (%)	49	47	46	52	60	63	40	44	26	44
Reused own injecting equipment (%)	58	62	64	64	64	48	53	66	72	62
Injecting equipment reused [#] (%)	N=506	N=573	n=96	n=64	n=96	n=51	n=49	n=66	n=89	n=62
Spoons	84	88	89	84	96	73	76	96	88	90
Filters	13	11	13	16	15	6	10	11	8	3
Tourniquets	40	43	40	44	23	47	61	41	65	32
Water	17	13	21	28	13	2	18	9	2	10
Swabs	4	4	4	2	7	2	8	2	1	3
Wheel filters	n.a.	6	6	8	6	2	10	9	2	5
Other	4	<1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Last site of injection	N=844	N=910	n=150	n=99	n=150	n=106	n=91	n=93	n=124	n=97
Arm	76	78	75	79	81	76	80	73	75	81
Leg	4	3	5	0	1	4	4	3	6	2
Hand/wrist	12	11	12	15	9	10	11	10	14	10
Foot	2	2	3	3	1	4	2	4	2	1
Groin	2	2	2	1	2	1	1	2	3	1
Neck	3	3	3	2	5	4	1	7	0	1
Other	1	1	0	0	1	2	0	1	0	3

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

[^] includes spoons, water, tourniquets and filters and excludes needles[#] Among those who re-used injected equipment

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

Mental health problems

Table 34. Self reported mental health problems experienced in the preceding six months, 2012

	National N=		NSW n=151	ACT n=99	VIC n=150	TAS n=106	SA n=93	WA n=100	NT n=125	QLD n=100
	2011	2012								
Self reported mental health problem (%)	48	43	45	35	51	46	45	42	26	56
Problem[#] (%)	N=411	N=393	n=68	n=35	n=76	n=49	n=39	n=42	n=32	n=52
Depression	66	70	68	80	76	82	62	62	59	69
Anxiety	45	52	57	51	43	67	62	48	41	48
Manic-depression/Bipolar	16	12	13	14	8	12	10	19	19	8
Schizophrenia	16	11	19	14	12	4	5	7	9	12
Panic	9	12	27	6	3	25	18	7	6	6
Paranoia	6	9	19	0	5	20	8	5	3	8
Drug induced psychosis	7	7	10	3	8	16	3	7	3	0
Phobias	4	4	7	3	3	10	10	0	0	0
Attended health professional for mental health problem[#]	71	58↓	72	49	65	58	39	62	38	58

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

[#] Among those who reported a mental health issue

Driving risk behaviour

Table 35. Driving risk behaviours among people who inject drugs in the last six months, by jurisdiction, 2012

	National N=924		NSW n=151	ACT n=99	VIC n=150	TAS n=106	SA n=93	WA n=100	NT n=125	QLD n=100
	2011	2012								
Driven in the last six months (%)	46 (N=395)	44 (N=409)	23 (n=35)	40 (n=40)	31 (n=46)	64 (n=68)	59 (n=54)	51 (n=51)	50 (n=62)	53 (n=53)
Driven under the influence of alcohol last six months[^] (%)	18	20	14	28	28	24	19	12	25	11
Driven after taking an illicit drug[^] (%)	79	77	69	77	76	78	81	84	72	83
Drugs used last time[#]	N=312	N=313	n=24	n=29	n=35	n=53	n=43	n=43	n=43	n=43
Heroin	39	39	75	69	69	0	28	65	0	47
Methadone	8	11	25	3	3	23	2	9	5	14
Buprenorphine	2	1	0	3	6	0	0	0	0	2
Bup-naloxone	2	3	0	3	11	2	0	2	0	5
Morphine	16	17	13	0	0	17	14	7	72	5
Oxycodone	3	5	13	0	6	13	7	0	5	0
Speed	10	10	0	7	9	17	12	5	14	7
Base	3	3	0	0	0	4	12	0	0	7
Ice	12	10	17	14	11	2	21	12	2	5
Benzodiazepines	10	5	0	0	20	13	2	2	2	0
Cannabis	30	28	13	7	49	59	21	14	23	26

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

[^] Of those who had driven a vehicle in the last six months

[#] Of those that had driven after taking an illicit drug

CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

Table 36. Proportion of PWID that reported criminal activity, 2012

	National N=924		NSW n=151	ACT n=99	VIC n=150	TAS n=106	SA n=93	WA n=100	NT n=125	QLD n=100
	2011	2012								
Crime in the last month (%)										
Drug dealing	25	24	21	25	20	36	25	31	11	26
Property	22	18↓	19	19	27	26	18	16	4	14
Fraud	3	3	1	3	3	8	3	4	1	2
Violence	6	3↓	5	3	3	5	2	5	1	2
Any crime	39	37	36	35	41	56	36	43	16	39
Arrested last 12 months (%)	36	33	36	22	47	37	25	26	17	46

Source: IDRS Injecting drug user interviews

NEUROLOGICAL HISTORY MODULE

Table 37. Incidence of selected neurological conditions among PWID who commented, 2012

	National N=903	NSW n=147	ACT n=99	VIC n=150	TAS n=105	SA n=90	WA n=93	NT n=124	QLD n=95
Epilepsy¹ (%)	6	4	9	5	3	8	7	3	7
Stroke (%)	3	3	5	3	4	2	0	5	2
Hypoxia (%)	2	1	3	3	5	1	0	1	2
Traumatic Brain Injury² (%)	48	52	51	47	56	43	52	34	53

Source: IDRS Injecting drug user interviews

Table 38. Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) among PWID, 2012

	National N=433	NSW n=77	ACT n=50	VIC n=70	TAS n=59	SA n=39	WA n=47	NT n=42	QLD n=49
Median No. TBI's (range)	2 (1-50)	2 (1-50)	3 (1-25)	2 (1-30)	2 (1-50)	1.5 (1-30)	2 (1-40)	3 (1-20)	2 (1-50)
Median LOC^a (mins)	4	3	5	10	2	2	5	5	2
Median age (years, range)	25 (1-58)	24 (3-54)	24 (5-57)	25 (1-47)	26 (9-51)	25 (8-49)	25 (1-44)	24 (5-56)	25 (5-58)
For most severe TBI:	N=421	n=75	n=47	n=70	n=58	n=38	n=46	n=41	n=46
Under influence of alcohol (%):	29	19	30	33	41	16	30	32	28
Under influence of drugs (%):	34	26	38	44	41	24	34	37	26
Main drug^a:	N=116	n=19	n=15	n=24	n=21	n=9	n=11	n=5	n=12
Heroin	31	53	47	46	0	22	27	0	25
Metadone	3	5	0	0	10	0	0	20	0
Benzodiazepines	14	11	13	13	10	22	27	20	8
Morphine	5	5	0	0	19	0	0	0	8
Speed	13	0	20	13	19	11	9	20	17
Ice/crystal	6	11	0	8	0	0	0	0	25
Other	28	15	20	20	42	45	37	40	17

Source: IDRS Injecting drug user interviews

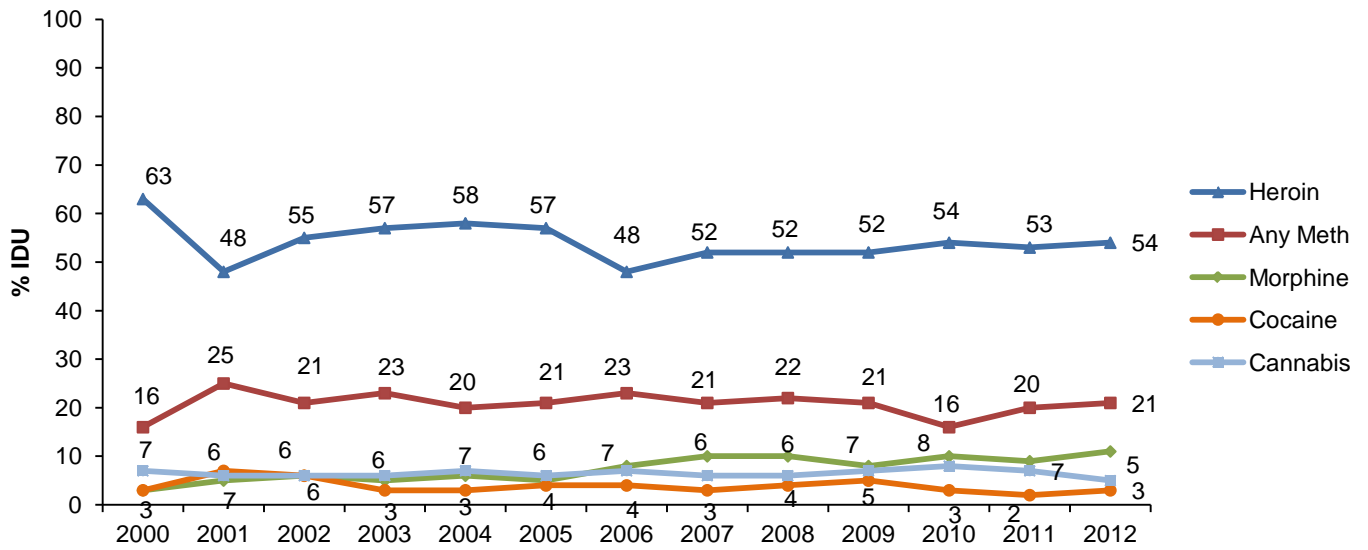
^a LOC = Loss of consciousness.

¹ National prevalence approximately 6.4 per 1000 people (i.e. 0.6%) in 2001 (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2001)

² Population prevalence rates usually between approximately 0.1% and 0.4% (Bruns & Hauser, 2003).

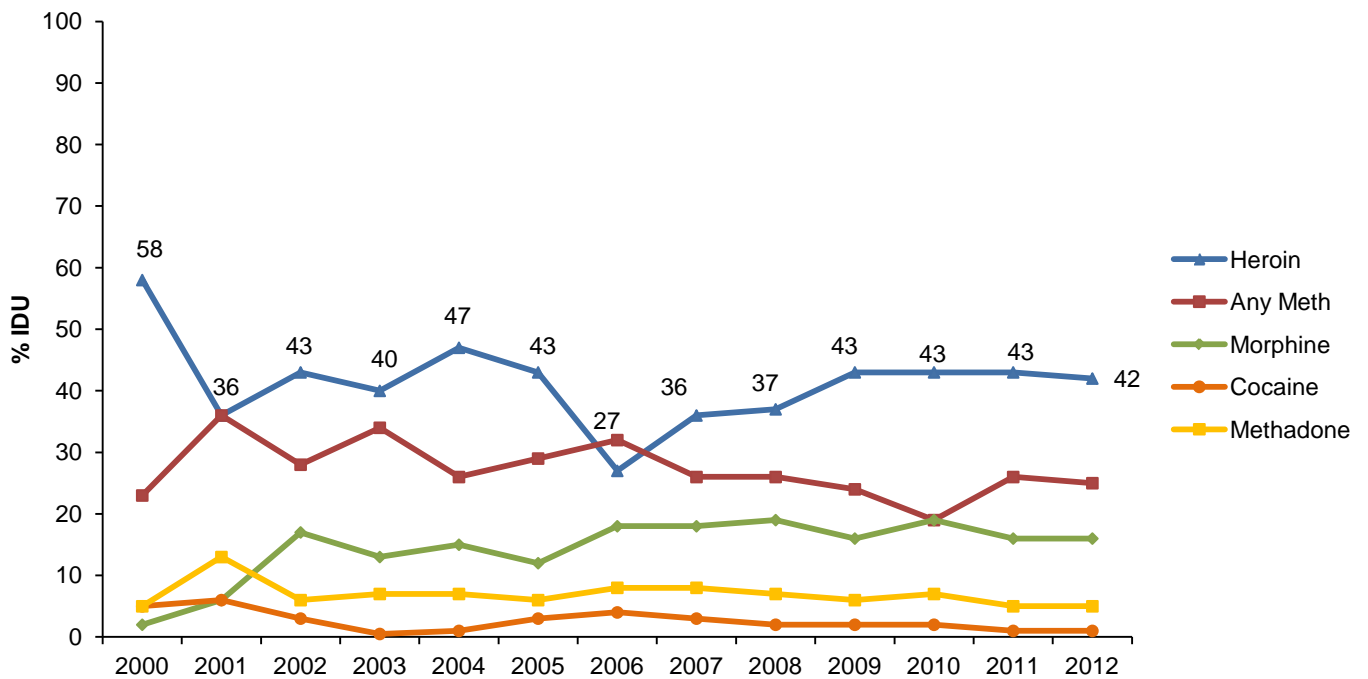
NATIONAL IDRS DRUG TRENDS

Figure 8: Drug of Choice, nationally, 2000-2012



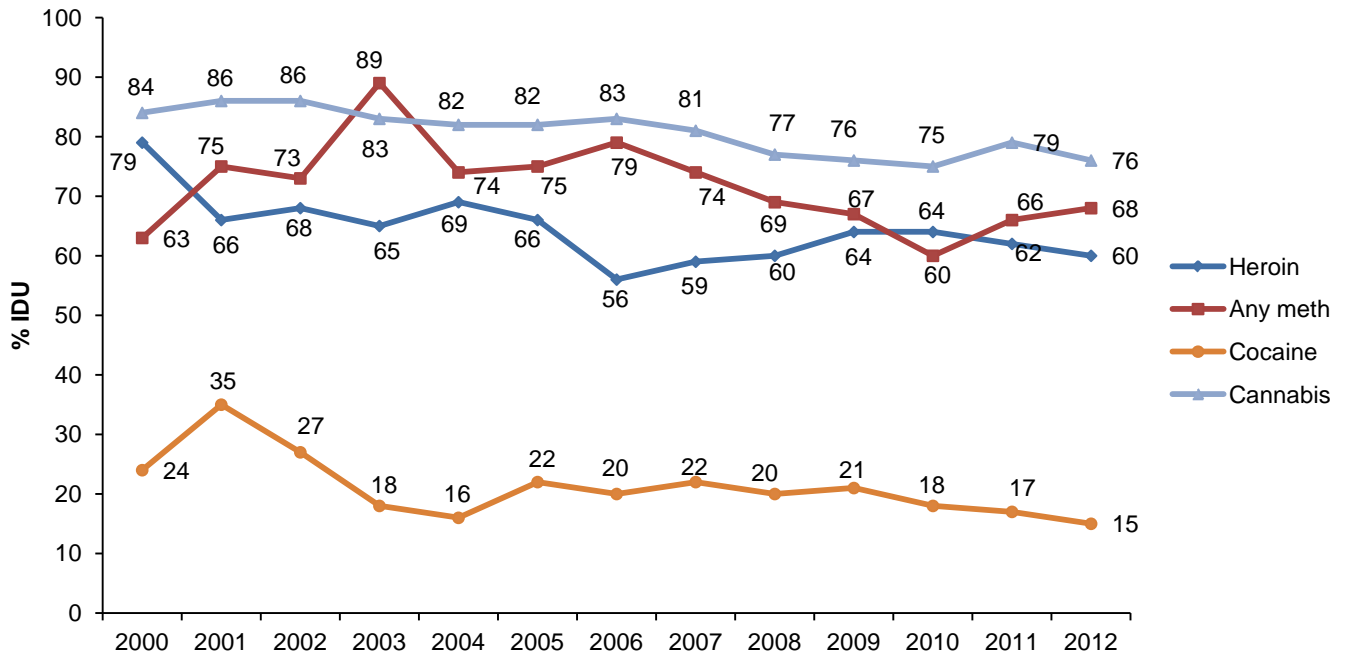
Source: IDRS Injecting drug user interviews

Figure 9: Drug injected most often in the last month, nationally, 2000-2012



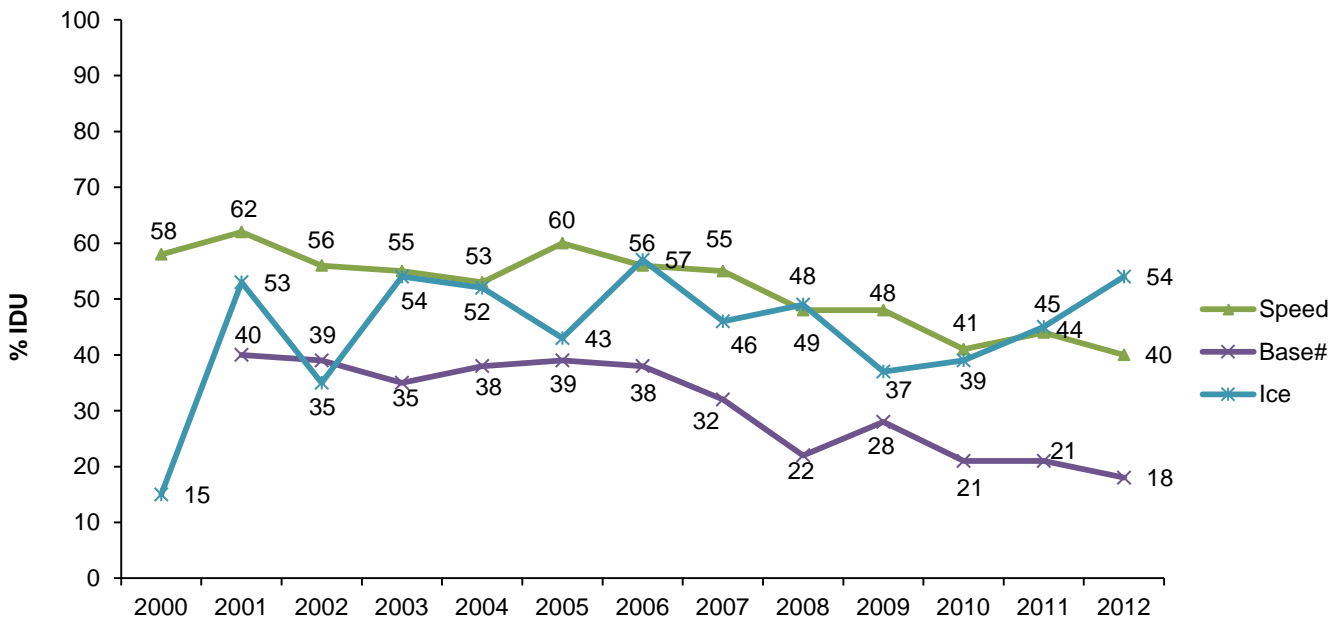
Source: IDRS Injecting drug user interviews

Figure 10: Recent use of heroin, any methamphetamine, cocaine and cannabis, nationally, 2000-2012



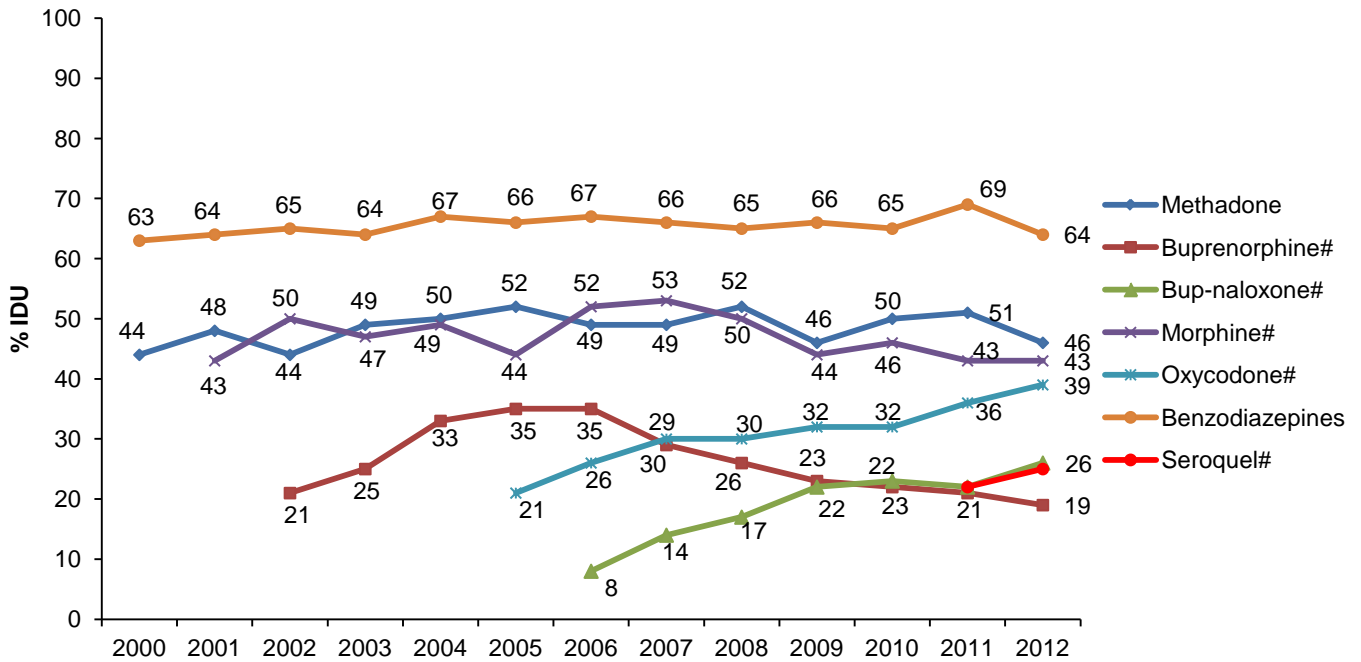
Source: IDRS Injecting drug user interviews

Figure 11: Recent use of speed, base and crystal/ice, nationally, 2000-2012



Source: IDRS Injecting drug user interviews
 # Base asked separately from 2001 onwards.

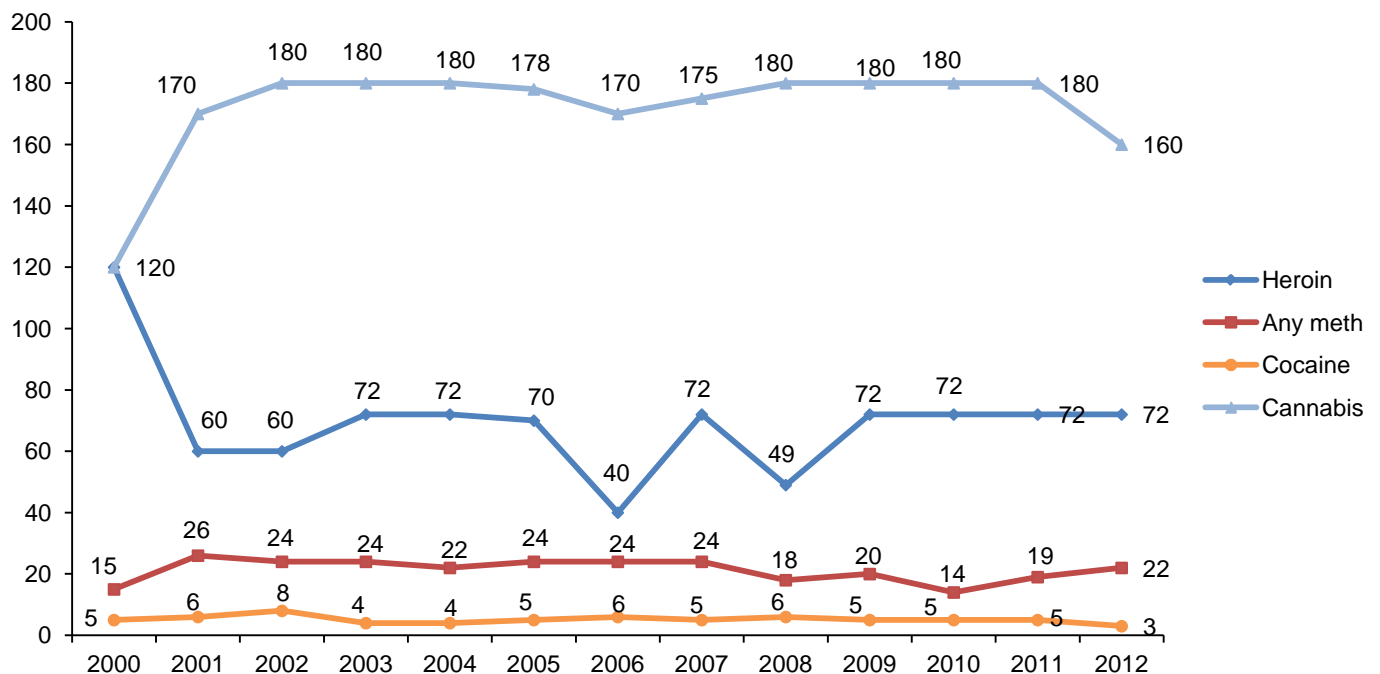
Figure 12: Recent use of other drugs, nationally, 2000-2012



Source: IDRS Injecting drug user interviews

Data collection started in 2001 for morphine, 2002 for buprenorphine, 2005 for oxycodone, 2006 for buprenorphine-naloxone and 2011 for Seroquel

Figure 13: Median days of heroin, methamphetamine (any form), cocaine and cannabis use among participants who had recently used, nationally, 2000-2012



Source: IDRS Injecting drug user interviews