2019 SAMPLE CHARACTERISTICS

In 2019, 100 people from South Australia participated in IDRS interviews. The mean age in 2019 was 44, and 62% identified as male. In the 2019 sample, 77% were unemployed. The three most commonly injected drugs were crystal methamphetamine, heroin and powder methamphetamine.

NALOXONE AND SEEKING HELP

Non-fatal overdose in the previous 12 months remained stable at 18% (13% in 2018). 18% of IDRS participants reported that they were currently in drug treatment. South Australian IDRS participant’s knowledge of the take-home naloxone program.

INJECTING RELATED RISKS AND HARMS

In 2019, 8% of the South Australian IDRS sample reported distributive needle sharing. In 2019, over two-fifths (43%) of the sample reported that they had re-used their own needles in the past month (31% in 2018). In 2019, half (51%) of the South Australian sample reported having an injection-related health issue in the month preceding interview.
28% of South Australian IDRS participants reported using heroin in the past 6 months. Of those who had recently consumed heroin, over three-fifths (64%) used it weekly or more. Of those who could comment 87% perceived heroin to be ‘easy’ or ‘very easy’ to obtain in 2019.

90% of South Australian 2019 IDRS participants reported past 6 month use of any methamphetamine. Of the entire sample, 44% had recently consumed powder, and 89% crystal methamphetamine. Injection was the main route of administration for powder (93%) and crystal (100%) among those who had consumed each form. Of those who could comment 98% perceived crystal methamphetamine to be ‘easy’ or ‘very easy’ to obtain in 2019.

Past 6 month use of non-prescribed morphine was stable at 10% (7% in 2018). 8% of South Australian IDRS participants reported using non-prescribed methadone in the past 6 months. 13% of South Australian IDRS participants reported using non-prescribed oxycodone in the past 6 months.

Almost 4 in 5 (79%) South Australian participants in the 2019 IDRS sample reported past 6 month use of cannabis. Of those who had consumed cannabis recently, 86% reported weekly or more frequent use. Of people who had consumed cannabis in the last 6 months, 99% had smoked it. Of those who could comment, high percentages perceived bush and hydro to be ‘easy’ or ‘very easy’ to obtain.