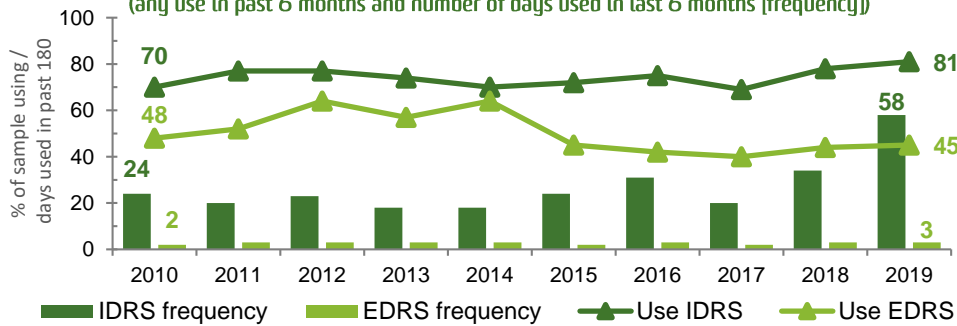


Callula Sharman & Raimondo Bruno

Note: IDRS interviews people who frequently inject drugs and EDRS interviews people that regularly use psychostimulants or 'party drugs' in Hobart [1,2]. These interviews tell us only about trends in people that are heavily engaged in substance use, not changes in the general population.

Methamphetamine use among people who frequently consume drugs (any use in past 6 months and number of days used in last 6 months [frequency])



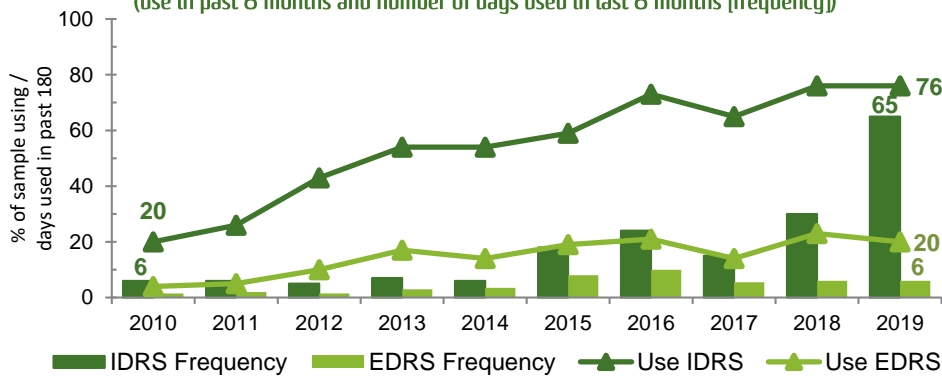
General Population Methamphetamine Use

In 2016 it was estimated that 1.4% of the general Tasmanian adult (14+) population used methamphetamine in the past year [3].

Wastewater Analysis of Methamphetamine

Sewerage analysis shows that consumption levels have increased since 2016 – rising from around two thirds of the national average to matching the national average in December 2018. This may relate to more people using, higher drug purity, or more frequent use [4].

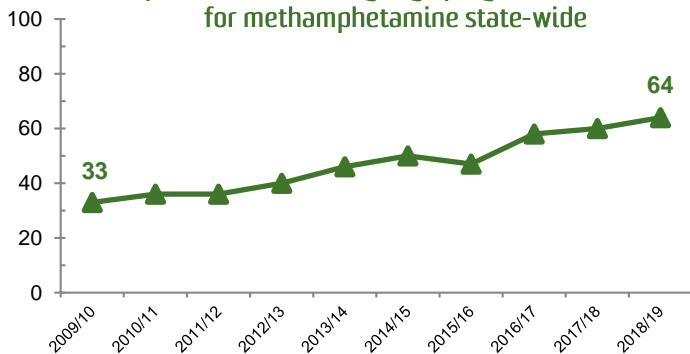
Crystal methamphetamine use among people who frequently consume drugs (use in past 6 months and number of days used in last 6 months [frequency])



Methamphetamine Use Trends in Samples of People Who Frequently Consume Drugs in Hobart

The overall proportion of IDRS and EDRS samples reporting methamphetamine use has changed little in the past 5 years. However, among people who frequently inject, the use of the high potency crystal form has been increasing. In particular, the median days used has increased substantially to approximately once every three days among this group.

Proportion of needle/syringe program transactions for methamphetamine state-wide



Methamphetamine transactions regionally 2018/19



There may be regional differences in use as a larger proportion of transactions for sterile injecting equipment are for methamphetamine in the Northern parts of the state than in the South. This is important to note as IDRS and EDRS consumer data all come from the South of the state.

50% of IDRS participants who recently used methamphetamine were screened as likely dependent.



21% of EDRS participants who recently used methamphetamine were screened as likely dependent.



Methamphetamine use was the main reason for 8% of drug treatment episodes in Tasmania in 2008/09 and increased to 23% in 2017/18 [5].



There appears to be increasing mental health concerns in frequent substance consumers, with around six in ten reporting mental health problems in 2019 but only half of these receiving any treatment.

Sources:

1. Tasmania Illicit Drug Reporting System (IDRS): <https://www.tasdrugtrends.org.au/idrs>
2. Tasmania Ecstasy and Other Drugs Reporting System: <https://www.tasdrugtrends.org.au/edrs>
3. National Drug Strategy Household Survey: <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/illicit-use-of-drugs/2016-ndshs-detailed/contents/table-of-contents>
4. National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program: <https://www.acic.gov.au/publications/reports/national-wastewater-drug-monitoring-program-reports>
5. Alcohol and other Drug Treatment Services: <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/alcohol-other-drug-treatment-services/aodts-2017-18-key-findings>

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