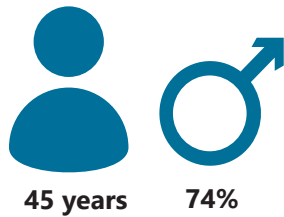


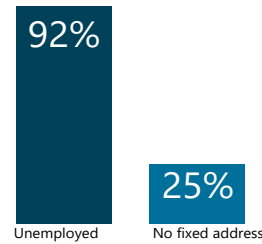
2023 SAMPLE CHARACTERISTICS



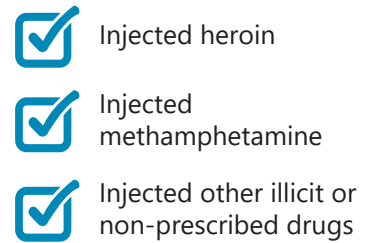
In 2023, 150 participants, recruited from Melbourne, VIC were interviewed.



The median age in 2023 was 45, and 74% identified as male.

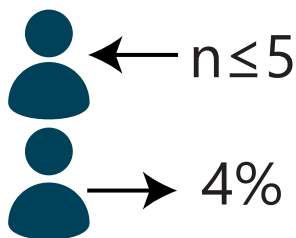


In the 2023 sample, 92% were unemployed and 25% had no fixed address.



Participants were recruited on the basis that they had injected drugs at least monthly in the previous 6 months.

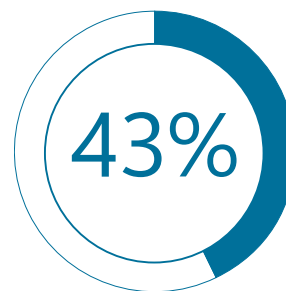
INJECTING RELATED RISKS AND HARMS



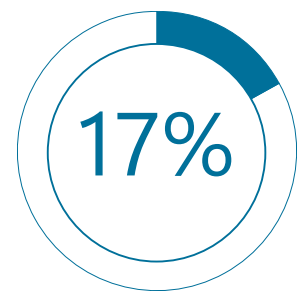
In 2023, few participants (n ≤ 5) reported receptive sharing in the past month and 4% reported distributive sharing.



One third (34%) of participants reported re-using their own needles in the past month, stable from 2022 (38%).

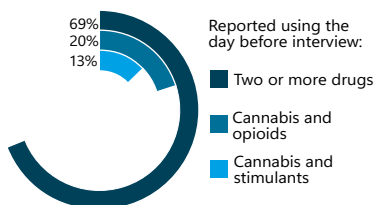


43% of participants reported injecting someone else after injecting themselves in the past month, stable relative to 2022 (34%).

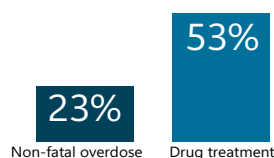


17% of participants reported having an injection-related health issue in the past month, stable from 2022 (19%).

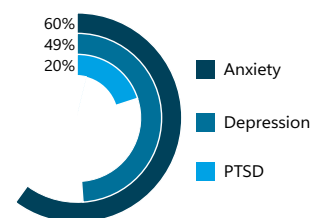
OTHER HARMS AND HELP-SEEKING



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



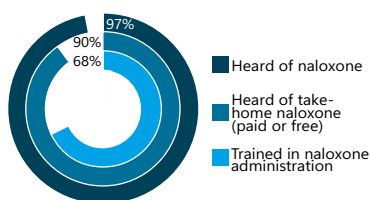
Past year non-fatal overdose (23%) and current drug treatment (53%) remained stable in 2023 relative to 2022.



In 2023, 55% of participants reported a mental health problem in the 6 months preceding interview, and 28% had seen a mental health professional.

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

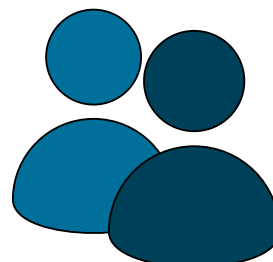
NALOXONE, HARM REDUCTION AND STIGMA



Knowledge of naloxone remained high and stable in 2023 relative to 2022, whereas there was a significant increase in knowledge of take-home naloxone and participants reporting having ever been trained in naloxone administration.



In 2023, one third (35%) of the sample reported ever using naloxone to resuscitate someone who had overdosed, with one in five (20%) having done so in the past year.

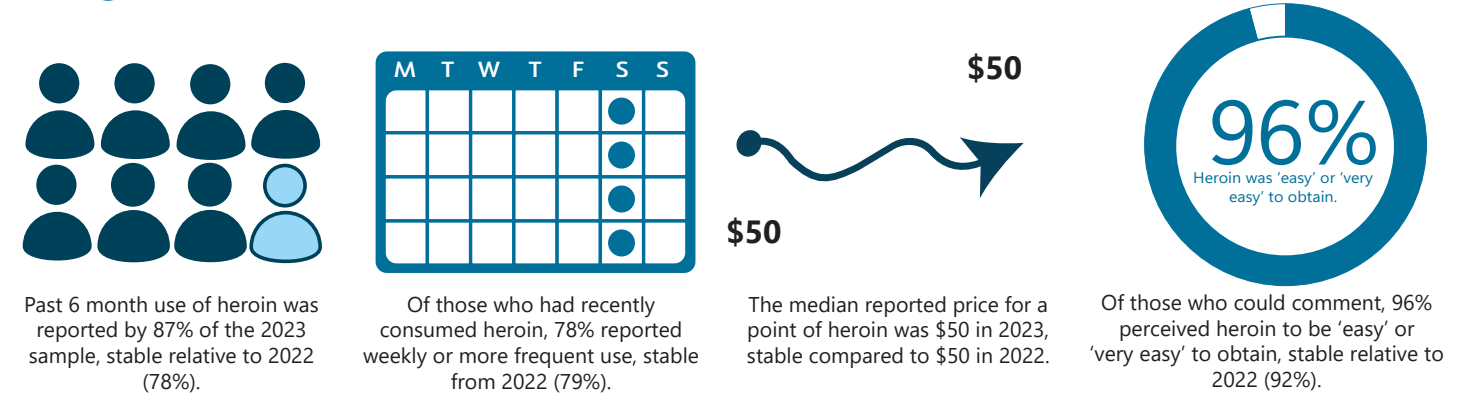


Half (49%) of the sample reported experiencing stigma because of their injecting drug use in the six months preceding interview, most commonly from police.

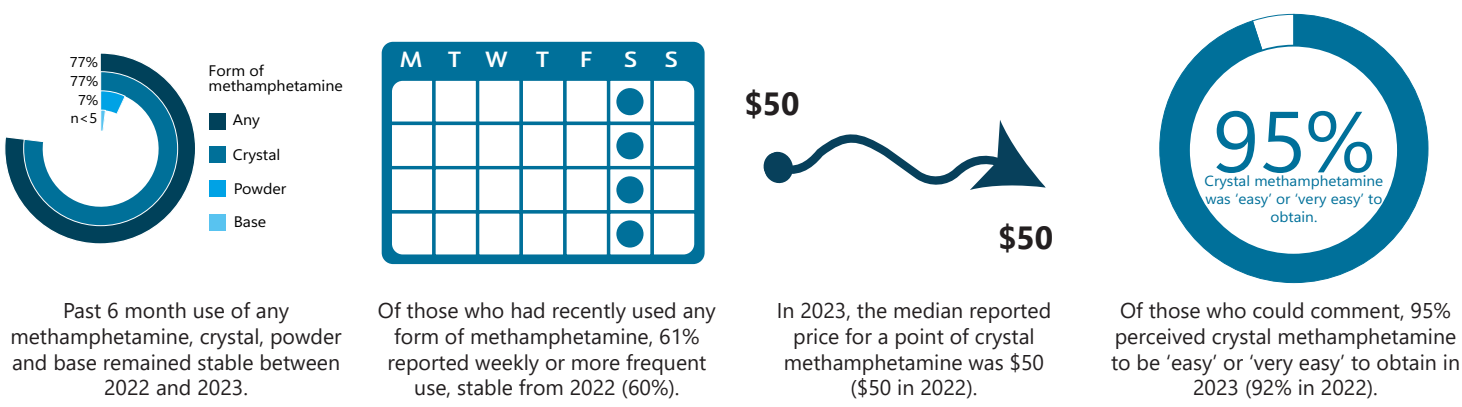


In 2023, 5% of the sample reported that they or someone else had tested the content and/or purity of their illicit drugs in Australia in the past year.

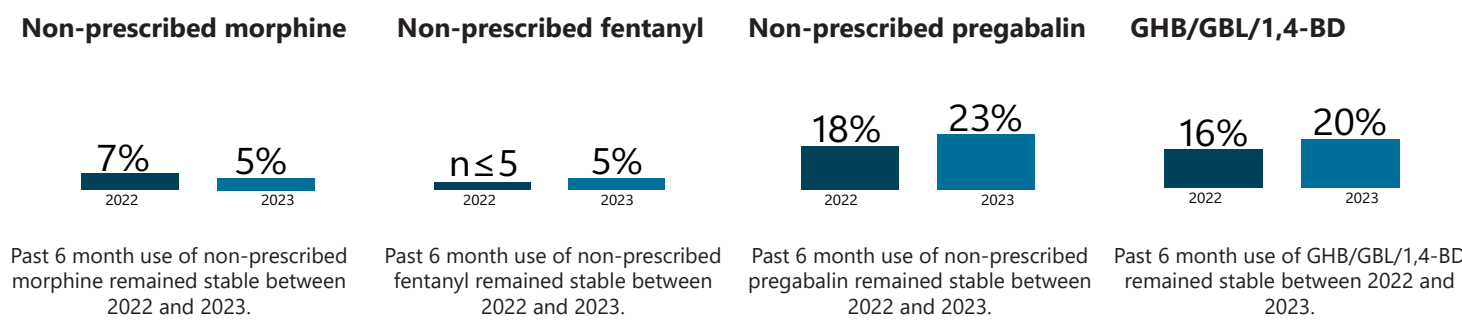
HEROIN



METHAMPHETAMINE



OTHER DRUGS



CANNABIS AND/OR CANNABINOID-RELATED PRODUCTS

