



Illicit drug use in Australian prisons amongst people who regularly inject drugs

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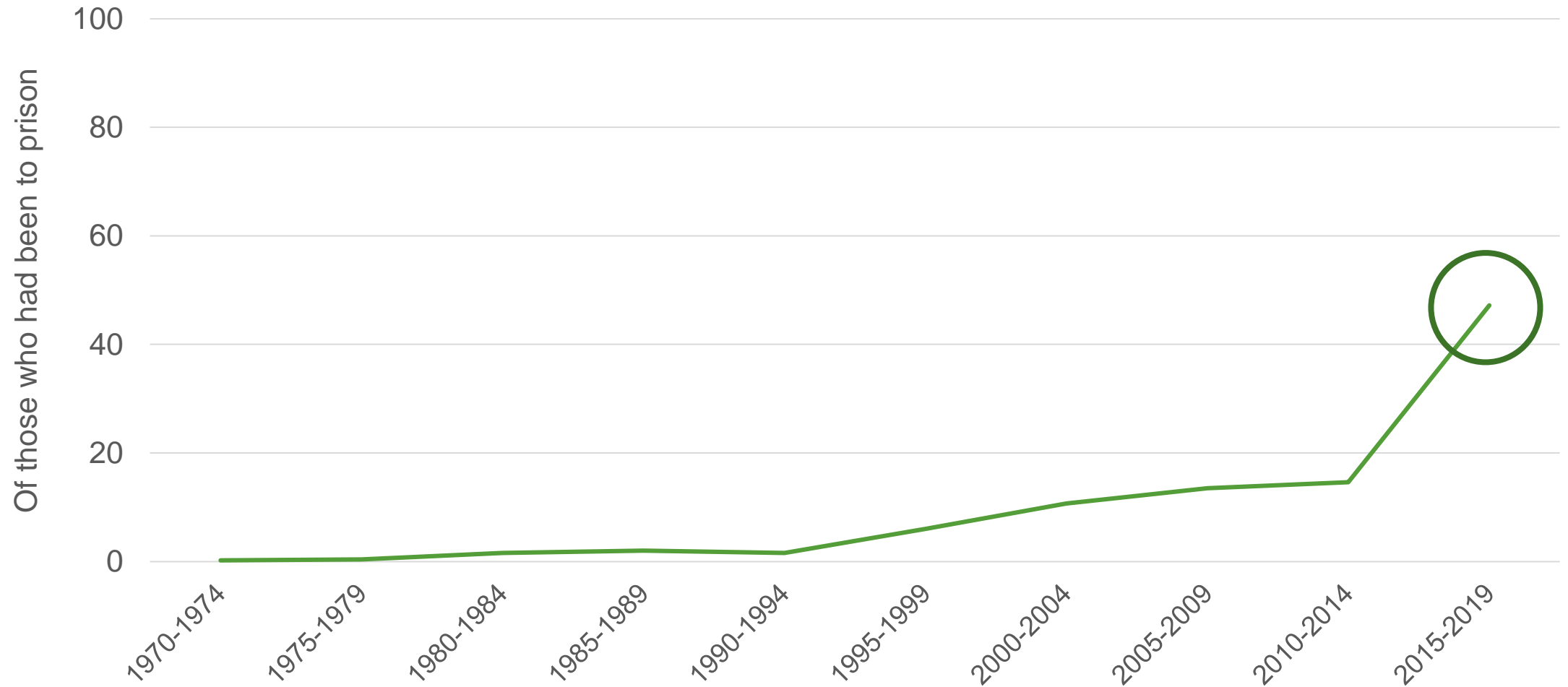
Aims

1. Identify the proportion of IDRS participants who report injecting drug use when they were last in prison, and what they were injecting;
2. Identify the risk behaviour patterns amongst people who inject drugs while in prison;
3. Identify what harm reduction measures people who inject drugs while in prison report as being available to them.

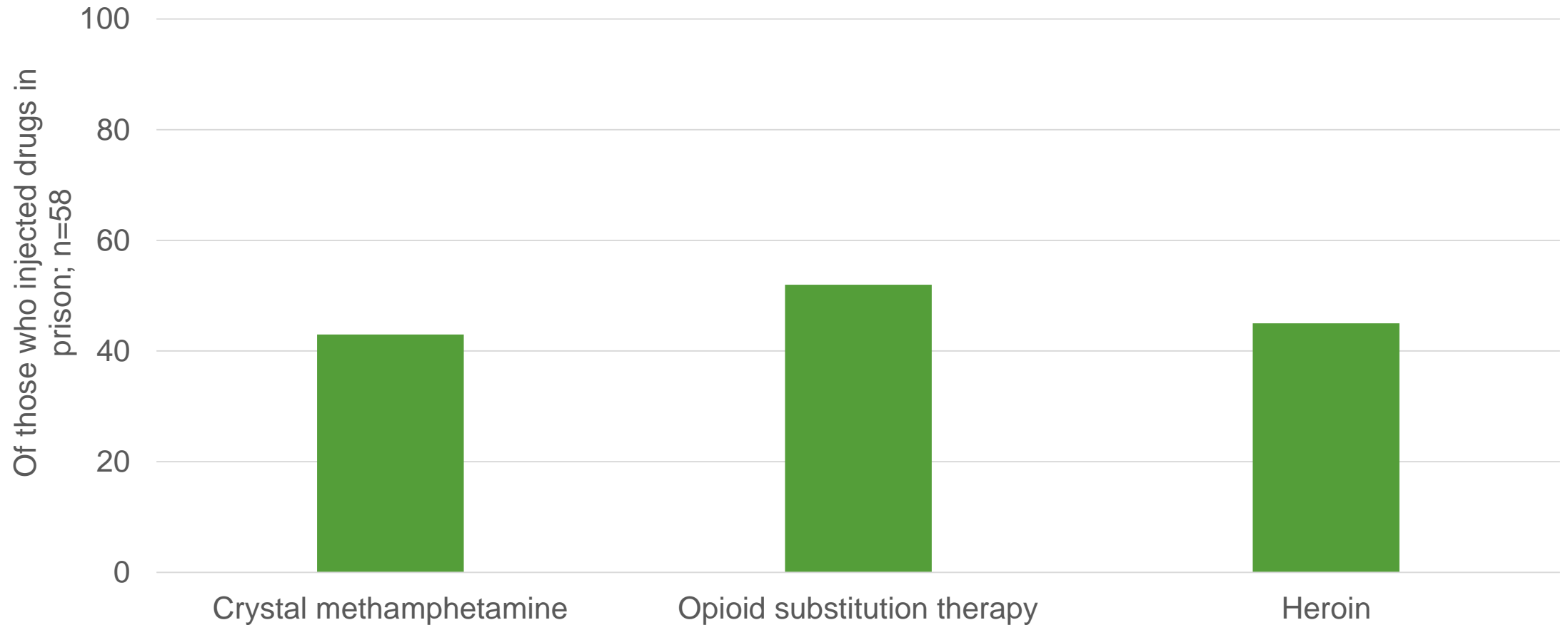
Design: cross-sectional study of people who inject drugs across Australia

- Recruited from NSPs in capital cities in each state
- **Resident in city of interview for 10 of the last 12 months**
- Injected drugs at least monthly in the past 6 months
- Structured interview on drug use and related issues
- 902 participants; median age 43; 68% male.

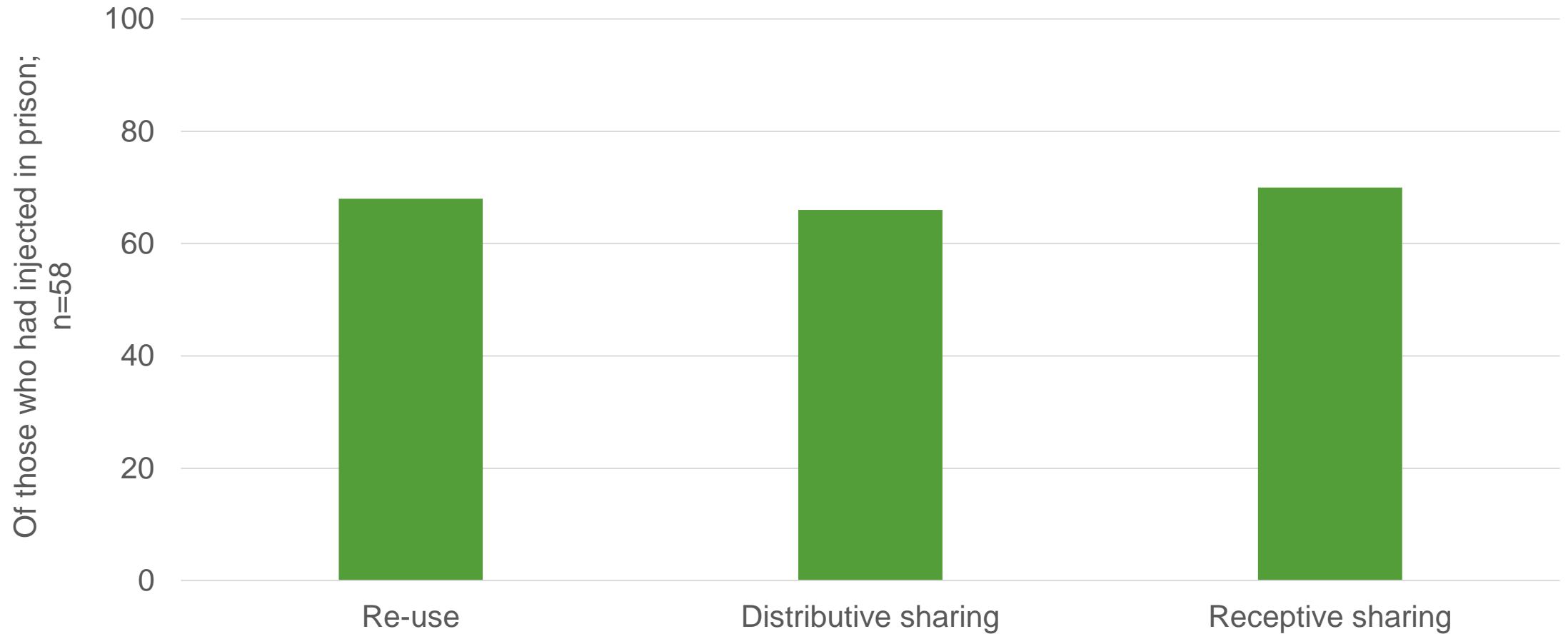
62% history of incarceration



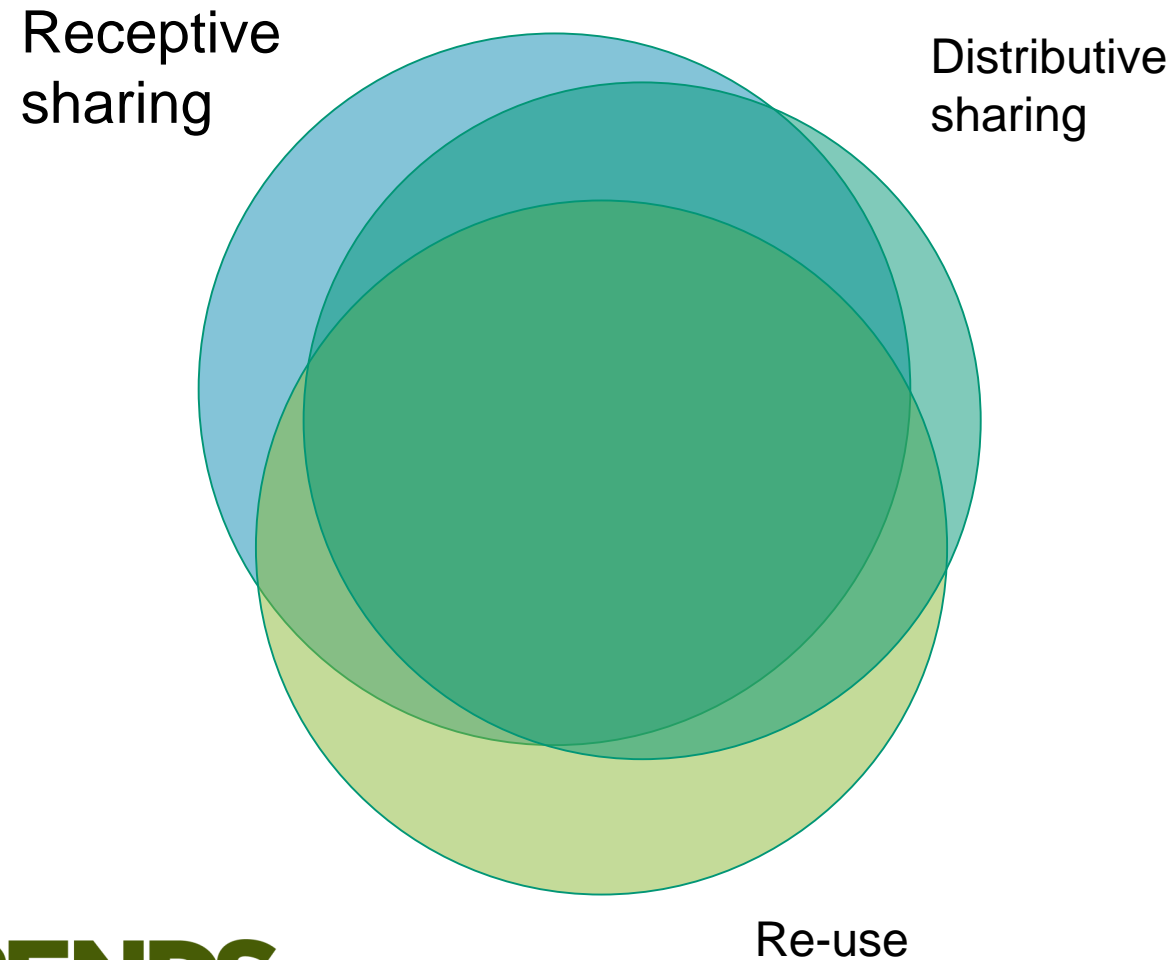
One-fifth injected illicit drugs in prison, 2015-2019



Injecting risk behaviour common in prison, 2015-2019



Injecting risk, 2015-2019



Compared to in the community

- Risk behaviour reduced outside of prison environment
- Prison is habit forming
- Messaging about re-use important

Opportunities to reduce harm are minimal

- 64% washed needle/syringe with bleach
- 41% washed needle/syringe with water

One-fourth experienced 'standovers'

- 11% in relation to prescribed medication
- 10% in relation to illicit drugs
- 9% in relation to medication not prescribed to them

Reasons for not injecting

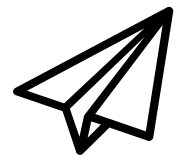
- 50% concern about contracting or transmitting BBV
- 33% injecting equipment not available

Injecting drug use continues in prisons

- Limited supply of injecting equipment increases risk behaviours
- More person centred harm reduction messaging needed

Conclusion

- NSP and OST coverage necessary in Australian prisons in order to meet the 2030 goal of HCV elimination
- NSP coverage will also reduce violence, and injecting related injuries associated with re-use.



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