



Crystal methamphetamine use, routes of administration and use of commercial ball pipes among people who inject drugs in Australia

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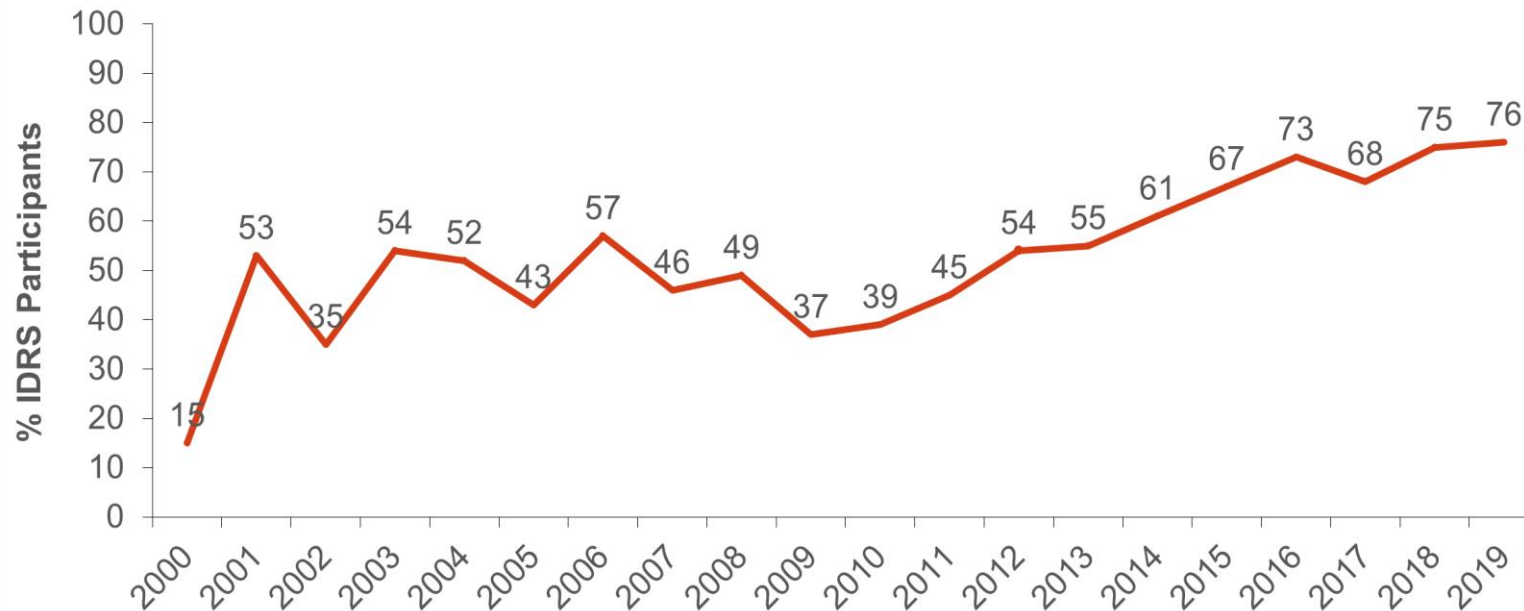
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Background

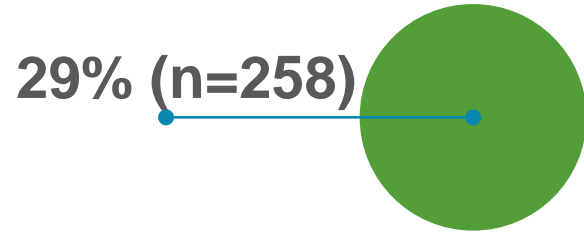
Particular concern regarding the use of methamphetamine for a number of years now, especially surrounding use of crystal methamphetamine

Figure 1: Recent use of crystal methamphetamine, IDRS, 2000-2019

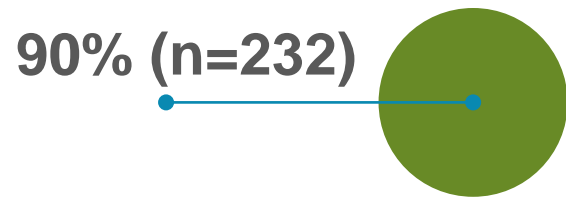


39% of IDRS participants who had recently used crystal methamphetamine (n=677) reported smoking the substance in 2019

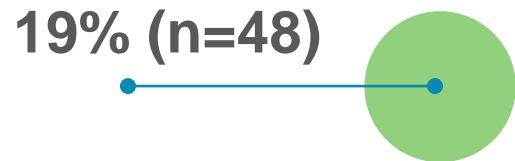
Results



Of the national IDRS sample had smoked crystal methamphetamine in the past six months



Of participants who had recently smoked crystal had used a commercial ball pipe to smoke crystal in the past six months



Of participants who recently smoked crystal reported having trouble accessing a commercial ball pipe in the six months prior to interview



- ❖ 63% injected instead
- ❖ 44% used a homemade pipe instead
- ❖ 4% snorted instead

To conclude...

- Homemade pipes made from makeshift materials → harms including cuts, burns and blisters around the mouth area;
- How can we engage with these people about the risks of smoking crystal methamphetamine?
- Distribution of 'safer smoking kits' → discussion and education about the risks associated with smoking crystal methamphetamine.