

AUSTRALIAN DRUG TRENDS 2013

FINDINGS FROM THE ILLICIT DRUGS REPORTING SYSTEM (EDRS)



Key findings- Drug Trend Conference Handout

The Illicit Drug Reporting System (IDRS) is a national illicit drug monitoring system intended to serve as a strategic early warning system, identifying emerging trends of local and national concern in illicit drug markets. The IDRS consists of three components: interviews with people who inject drugs regularly (PWID); interviews with key experts (KEs), who are professionals who have knowledge of drug trends and/or regular contact with users through their work; and analysis and examination of indicator data sources related to illicit drugs.

The IDRS monitors the price, purity, availability and patterns of use of heroin, methamphetamine, cocaine and cannabis. The IDRS is designed to be sensitive to trends, providing data in a timely manner, rather than describing issues in detail. It is important to note that the information from the people who inject drugs (PWID) survey is not representative of illicit drug use in the general population and nor is the information representative of all illicit drug users, but is indicative of emerging trends that warrant further investigation. Drug trends in this publication are cited by jurisdiction, although they primarily represent trends in the capital city of each jurisdiction, in which new drug trends are likely to emerge.

This handout (provided as part of the 2013 National Drug Trends Conference) presents key findings for the 2013 IDRS (PWID survey component) and may be subject to minor change. Final figures will appear in the 2013 national and jurisdictional reports, to be released next year (April 2014). Previous years' data are available in reports published elsewhere, and are accessible on the NDARC website www.ndarc.med.unsw.edu.au

Definitions:

Use - includes smoking, snorting, swallowing and injecting as routes of administration

Recent use - used in the last 6 months

Recent injection – injected in the last 6 months

Injecting drug users (PWID) - those who have injected any drug 6 or more times in the last 6 months

↑ **Significant increase** from previous year (2012) compared with current year (2013)

↓ **Significant decrease** from previous year (2012) compared with current year (2013)

Guide to median days of use

Throughout this document, median days of drug use are reported. As an indication:

180 days = daily use	90 days = use every 2 nd day	24 days = weekly use
48 days = twice weekly use	12 days = fortnightly use	6 days = monthly use

Note: due to rounding of percentages, some columns may not add up to 100%.

KEY FINDINGS FROM THE 2013 IDRS

PARTICIPANT RECRUITMENT

- 37% of participants nationally reported to have completed the IDRS survey in a previous year.
- Participants were primarily recruited through Needle and Syringe programs and word of mouth (snowballing).



DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

Table 1. Demographic characteristics of the sample, 2013

	National		NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
	N=924	N=887	n=151	n=100	n=150	n=107	n=100	n=88	n=91	n=100
	2012	2013								
Mean age (years)	39	40	40	40	40	37	42	42	41	42
Male (%)	66	64	60	71	71	57	56	65	65	68
English speaking background (%)	97	96	95	99	95	99	94	98	99	91
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (%)	16	17	27	23	13	19	9	7	21	15
Heterosexual (%)	90	89	85	93	91	90	90	83	87	92
Mean grade at school completed	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Completed trade/tech qualification (%)	43	40	49	42	33	20	50	52	35	39
Completed university/college (%)	10	9	7	9	5	8	7	11	18	11
Unemployed (%)	84	84	95	82	90	77	75	77	79	84
Full-time students (%)	1	<1	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
Mean income per week (\$)	N=904 \$386	N=871 \$392	n=149 \$354	n=97 \$452	n=150 \$368	n=104 \$363	n=100 \$431	n=85 \$452	n=90 \$403	n=96 \$356
Prison history (%)	54	56	70	63	63	37	52	47	42	64
Currently in drug treatment [#] (%)	44	47	61	58	52	47	31	59	13	45

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

[#] Includes all types of pharmacotherapy treatment, drug counselling, detoxification, therapeutic community and narcotics anonymous

Please note: Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander proportion of sample is not indicative of numbers of Indigenous persons who regularly inject drugs.

DRUG USE PATTERNS

Table 2. Drug use patterns, 2013

	National		NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
	N=924	N=887	n=151	n=100	n=150	n=107	n=100	n=88	n=91	n=100
	2012	2013								
Mean age first injected	20	20	20	20	19	20	21	19	20	20
Drug of choice (%)										
Heroin	54	53	62	58	71	24	37	56	43	60
Methamphetamine [^]	21	23	17	27	18	23	49	16	17	17
<i>Speed</i>	13	10	1	5	5	16	26	6	14	10
<i>Base</i>	1	2	1	0	0	1	12	0	0	2
<i>Ice</i>	7	11	15	22	13	6	11	10	3	5
Morphine	11	8	0	1	1	26	3	3	26	9
Oxycodone	2	3	7	0	0	6	3	7	0	1
Methadone	2	1	1	1	0	8	0	0	1	1
Buprenorphine [#]	1	1	1	1	2	0	0	2	1	2
Cocaine	3	2	9	1	2	1	0	1	0	2
Cannabis	5	5	4	9	6	5	4	8	2	5
Other drugs	1	4	0	2	0	6	4	7	10	3
Drug injected most often last month (%)										
Heroin	42	40	50	55	69	2	31	50	1	44
Methamphetamine [^]	25	25	23	34	20	21	57	21	18	17
<i>Speed</i>	14	8	1	8	3	13	23	5	15	8
<i>Base</i>	1	2	1	0	0	0	15	0	0	0
<i>Ice</i>	10	15	21	26	17	8	19	16	3	9
Morphine	16	17	2	0	2	44	6	8	73	15
Oxycodone	4	5	11	2	0	9	3	7	1	5
Methadone	5	4	2	4	1	19	2	3	3	3
Buprenorphine [#]	4	4	2	3	7	2	0	10	2	8
Cocaine	1	1	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other drugs	3	4	3	2	1	4	1	1	2	8
Injection frequency last month (%)										
Not in last month	1	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	7
Weekly or less	18	19	13	25	23	9	18	17	23	24
More than weekly (but less than daily)	35	38	34	38	32	63	57	44	17	21
Once daily	19	17	16	27	21	12	8	14	28	12
2-3 times daily	21	20	28	9	17	15	12	21	30	28
> 3 times a day	6	5	7	1	6	1	5	5	1	8

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

[^] Includes speed powder, base, ice/crystal and liquid methamphetamine.

[#] Includes buprenorphine-naloxone (Suboxone)

HEROIN

Patterns of Heroin Use

Table 3. Proportion of PWID who reported use of heroin in the preceding six months, 2003-2013

	National	NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
2003	65	97	88	90	26	55	63	16	64
2004	69	95	91	86	19	60	69	34	79
2005	66	88	86	89	19	61	69	24	64
2006	56	81	71	76	9	60	53	12	63
2007	59	88	72	85	5	67	57	7	65
2008	60	83	86	85	5	51	59	14	74
2009	64	94	78	79	12	72	71	13	75
2010	64	92	78	85	8	64	69	5	81
2011	62	87	79	81	19	57	79	9	65
2012	60	89	74	84	9	52	80	11	65
2013	60	83	75	83	10	41	75	17	72

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

Table 4. Median days of heroin use in the preceding six months by those who had used heroin, 2003-2013[#]

	National	NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
2003	72	170	93	76	4.5	72	20	5	49
2004	72	120	72	90	4	48	48	5	26
2005	70	96	60	81	6	28	60	4	52
2006	40	72	24	56	6 [^]	19	20	13	52
2007	72	96	48	90	4 [^]	48	72	30 [^]	28
2008	49	72	60	81	2 [^]	48	48	6	48
2009	72	96	48	51	6	30	96	17	72
2010	72	96	60	74	3 [^]	24	55	4 [^]	90
2011	72	90	66	63	4	72	68	21 [^]	66
2012	72	96	72	72	6 [^]	48	90	4.5	72
2013	60↓	90	50	72	3	72	54	3	30

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

[#] Among those who had used. Maximum number of days, i.e. daily use = 180. See page 1 for guide.[^] Small numbers reported; interpret with caution (n<10)

Forms used

Table 5. Reports of heroin forms used in the last six months of those who had used heroin, 2013

	National		NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
	2012	2013								
Used last 6 months (%)	N=549	N=529	n=125	n=75	n=124	n=11	n=41	n=66	n=15	n=72
White/off-white powder or rock	93	83↓	84	92	86	64	78	79	53	86
Brown powder or rock	48	51	63	29	40	46	66	73	53	40
Form most used last 6 months	N=534	N=525	n=124	n=75	n=124	n=11	n=41	n=63	n=15	n=72
White powder or rock	81	70↓	65	88	88	55	59	40	53	75
Brown powder or rock	16	25↑	33	11	12	45	37	41	33	24
Other colour or homebake	3	5	2	1	0	0	4	19	14	1

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

Table 6. Use of heat and acid in the preparation of last heroin injection among recent[^] heroin users who commented, 2013

	National		NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
	2012	2013								
Heated in the last injection (%)	N=522 32	N=522 38	n=122 49	n=73 37	n=124 14	n=11 27	n=41 49	n=66 64	n=14 43	n=71 34
Acid in the last injection (%)	N=503 3	N=511 5	n=122 12	n=73 4	n=124 0	n=11 9	n=38 13	n=61 3	n=11 0	n=71 0
Main Colour[#]	N=147	N=196	n=59	n=27	n=17	n=3 [^]	n=23	n=38	n=5 [^]	n=24
White	52	38	14	82	76	0	61	11	60	42
Brown	44	53	73	15	18	100	30	76	20	54
Other	4	10	14	4	6	0	9	13	20	4

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

[^] Recent = use in the last six months preceding interview[#] Among those who reported either heating or using acid to prepare their last injection of heroin[^] Small numbers reported; interpret with caution (n<10)

Availability, Purity and Price

Table 7. Reports of current heroin availability and purity by PWID who commented, 2013

	National		NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
	2012	2013								
Current availability (%)	N=519	N=487	n=128	n=74	n=101	n=5 [^]	n=49	n=60	n=7 [^]	n=63
Very easy	51	47	52	43	55	20	41	53	0	37
Easy	36	38	34	32	42	20	45	32	29	46
Difficult	11	13	13	20	4	20	14	13	14	16
Very difficult	2	5	1	4	0	40	0	2	57	2
Current purity (%)	N=504	N=475	n=125	n=73	n=99	n=5 [^]	n=48	n=60	n=5	n=60
High	13	7↓	8	7	6	60	4	8	20	5
Medium	34	32	38	26	35	40	25	28	0	28
Low	40	50↑	38	63	49	0	58	52	80	57
Fluctuates	13	11	16	4	10	0	13	12	0	10

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

[^] Small numbers reported; interpret with caution (n<10)

Note: The response option 'don't know' was excluded from analysis

Table 8. Median price of last heroin purchase, 2012-2013

	Median price \$ per cap		Median price \$ per gram	
	2012	2013	2012	2013
National	50	50	350	300
NSW	50	50	350	350
ACT	50	50	300	300
VIC	50	50	300	250
TAS	50 [^]	50[^]	-	-
SA	100	100	400	420[^]
WA	100 [^]	100[^]	600	600
NT	110 [^]	100[^]	125 [^]	275[^]
QLD	50	50[^]	400	380

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

[^] Small numbers reported; interpret with caution (n<10)

METHAMPHETAMINE

Patterns of Methamphetamine Use

Table 9. Proportion of PWID who reported use of any form of methamphetamine[^] in the preceding six months, 2003-2013

	National	NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
2003	76	53	71	79	88	73	90	69	89
2004	75	56	81	71	91	71	85	70	81
2005	75	58	73	79	95	78	75	72	78
2006	79	72	92	81	83	78	86	64	82
2007	74	62	83	74	88	74	69	68	78
2008	69	74	74	69	74	69	74	57	59
2009	67	57	75	70	80	61	61	55	70
2010	60	57	59	60	70	74	65	36	59
2011	66	60	73	65	77	66	64	55	71
2012	68	72	77	67	77	79	72	48	53
2013	66	75	66	61	74	75	72	43	58

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

[^] includes speed powder, base, ice/crystal and liquid methamphetamine

Table 10. Proportion of PWID who reported use of speed powder in the preceding six months, 2003-2013

	National	NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
2003	55	31	48	70	51	53	71	60	58
2004	53	35	41	65	60	44	61	60	61
2005	60	38	59	75	76	39	61	69	65
2006	56	49	58	71	54	39	66	57	54
2007	55	35	55	65	63	42	61	58	62
2008	48	38	37	64	61	34	61	50	35
2009	48	33	46	65	56	33	54	50	46
2010	41	29	48	53	56	29	51	25	41
2011	44	30	46	49	67	36	43	43	40
2012	40	17	42	39	70	34	45	46	30
2013	34↓	14	29	23	61	40	48	31	37

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

Table 11. Proportion of PWID who reported use of base methamphetamine in the preceding six months, 2003-2013

	National	NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
2003	35	32	13	18	46	51	40	30	50
2004	38	31	25	11	72	46	45	26	60
2005	39	38	28	13	79	61	54	16	40
2006	38	43	32	15	55	52	37	25	53
2007	32	41	32	8	48	42	22	20	48
2008	22	33	18	5	25	37	13	10	34
2009	28	36	21	13	55	31	12	16	41
2010	21	29	18	3	40	43	8	6	30
2011	21	17	17	11	39	35	6	12	37
2012	18	15	15	11	43	32	6	7	21
2013	13↓	12	6	3	17	31	11	7	22

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

Table 12. Proportion of PWID who reported use of ice/crystal methamphetamine in the preceding six months, 2003-2013

	National	NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
2003	54	38	65	50	69	48	80	34	60
2004	52	45	73	41	52	48	83	32	51
2005	43	38	62	29	50	46	68	21	36
2006	57	57	88	53	56	49	76	29	55
2007	46	50	80	43	38	41	56	29	39
2008	49	69	68	39	32	49	61	28	40
2009	37	46	57	32	26	30	43	15	46
2010	39	48	48	36	20	60	40	18	37
2011	45	53	57	53	26	44	46	28	50
2012	54	68	66	59	43	56	64	26	44
2013	55	74	61	55	45	57	59	30	50

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

Table 13. Median days of methamphetamine use in the preceding six months among those who had used methamphetamine, 2013[#]

	National		NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
	2012	2013								
Speed	10	10	5	6	8	10	48	5	12	6
Base	6	6	4.5	4 [^]	6 [^]	3.5	48	1.5	4 [^]	3
Ice/crystal	12	12	15	32	13	6.5	12	14.5	10	10
Liquid	4	3	1 [^]	24 [^]	0	2.5	24 [^]	2 [^]	2.5 [^]	1 [^]
Any form[@]	22	24	18	44	15	18	72	20	18	16.5

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

[#] Among those who had used. Maximum number of days, i.e. daily use = 180. See page 1 for guide.[^] Small numbers reported; interpret with caution (n<10)[@] Includes speed powder, base, ice/crystal and liquid forms.**Table 14. Reports of current methamphetamine availability by PWID who commented, 2013**

	National		NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
	2012	2013								
Speed (%)	N=295	N=238	n=25	n=25	n=19	n=59	n=42	n=28	n=21	n=19
Very easy	45	39	24	28	26	31	62	43	48	42
Easy	44	45	56	52	42	53	31	43	33	47
Difficult	11	15	20	20	26	17	5	11	14	11
Very difficult	<1	2	0	0	5	0	2	4	5	0
Base (%)	N=114	N=88	n=18	n=4 [^]	n=3 [^]	n=14	n=35	n=3 [^]	n=2 [^]	n=9 [^]
Very easy	35	39	28	25	33	29	54	0	50	33
Easy	44	41	28	75	67	57	40	0	50	33
Difficult	18	15	28	0	0	7	6	67	0	33
Very difficult	4	6	17	0	0	7	0	33	0	0
Ice/crystal (%)	N=376	N=379	n=102	n=52	n=49	n=39	n=54	n=38	n=12	n=33
Very easy	46	42	46	39	39	31	50	32	42	52
Easy	38	46[↑]	46	50	47	33	41	61	58	42
Difficult	14	12	8	12	14	36	9	8	0	6
Very difficult	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

[^] Small numbers reported; interpret with caution (n<10)

Note: The response option 'don't know' was excluded from analysis

Table 15. Reports of current methamphetamine purity by PWID who commented, 2013

	National		NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
	2012	2013								
Speed (%)	N=288	N=239	n=24	n=23	n=19	n=59	n=45	n=28	n=21	n=20
High	22	23	33	17	26	20	20	29	24	20
Medium	29	37	29	39	42	31	36	50	43	40
Low	31	26	29	30	26	34	24	14	19	15
Fluctuates	18	14	8	13	5	15	20	7	14	25
Base (%)	N=112	N=92	n=18	n=4^	n=3^	n=15	n=35	n=3^	n=3^	n=11
High	31	27	33	25	33	20	17	67	100	27
Medium	30	40	33	25	67	47	46	0	0	46
Low	23	15	17	0	0	20	20	33	0	0
Fluctuates	15	17	17	50	0	13	17	0	0	27
Ice/crystal (%)	N=365	N=375	n=100	n=52	n=47	n=39	n=53	n=38	n=13	n=33
High	42	44	38	35	47	64	40	42	46	61
Medium	30	30	30	35	32	26	30	34	23	21
Low	13	13	15	17	11	5	19	13	15	3
Fluctuates	15	13	17	14	11	5	11	11	15	15

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

^ Small numbers reported; interpret with caution (n<10)

Note: The response option 'don't know' was excluded from analysis

Table 16. Median price of last methamphetamine purchase, 2012-2013[#]

	Median price \$ per point						Median price \$ per gram					
	Speed powder		Base		Ice/crystal		Speed powder		Base		Ice/crystal	
	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013
National	50	50	50	90	100	100	300	275	300	325	500	500
NSW	50	50	50	50	50	50	150^	300	250^	100^	400	388
ACT	50	50	20^	65^	100	100	250	200^	200^	475^	575	700
VIC	75	50^	-	75^	100	100	200	160^	450^	220^	500	300^
TAS	50	50	50	50^	60	100	300	300	300	300^	350	-
SA	100	100	100	100	100	100	350^	550^	700^	450^	500^	650^
WA	100	100	100^	100^	100	100	700^	350^	-	-	750^	700^
NT	150	100	100^	50^	150	140	275^	400^	-	700^	700^	800^
QLD	100^	100	75^	100	100	100	775^	500^	550^	400^	725^	600^

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

[#] Among those who had used in the last 6 months

^ Small numbers reported; interpret with caution (n<10)

COCAINE

Patterns of Cocaine Use

Table 17. Proportion of PWID who reported using cocaine in the preceding six months, 2003-2013

	National	NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
2003	18	53	13	13	9	13	10	5	16
2004	16	47	10	10	4	6	15	10	10
2005	22	60	20	15	8	16	19	10	11
2006	20	67	8	19	12	8	10	8	9
2007	22	63	18	22	5	7	16	9	15
2008	20	58	18	24	4	4	15	3	13
2009	21	61	22	15	2	10	12	12	15
2010	18	57	6	14	5	12	15	4	13
2011	17	47	8	17	7	12	10	1	13
2012	15	44	16	9	11	7	15	4	4
2013	16	41	16	11	5	9	15	7	11

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

Table 18. Median days of cocaine use in the preceding six months of those who had used cocaine, 2003-2013[#]

	National	NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
2003	4	5	4	2	4 [^]	2	5.5	2 [^]	2.5
2004	4	6	5	2	1.5 [^]	1.5 [^]	2	6	2
2005	5	12	2	3	4.5 [^]	3.5	3	1	6.5
2006	5.5	20	3 [^]	2	3	1.5 [^]	3	3 [^]	3 [^]
2007	5	20	3	3	2 [^]	2 [^]	4	2 [^]	1.5
2008	6	12	2.5	4.5	4.5 [^]	1.5 [^]	2	8 [^]	3
2009	5	20	2	3	2.5 [^]	3	1.5	4.5	2
2010	5	12	2 [^]	5	3 [^]	1	3	5.5 [^]	5
2011	5	10	8 [^]	3	2 [^]	2	2	1 [^]	2
2012	3	7	2	3.5	1	3 [^]	2	2 [^]	4 [^]
2013	3	6	3.5	3.5	2[^]	3[^]	1	6.5[^]	2

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

[#] Among those who had used in the last 6 months. Maximum number of days, i.e. daily use = 180. See page 1 for guide.[^] Small numbers reported; interpret with caution (n<10)

Availability, Purity and Price

Table 19. Reports of current cocaine availability and purity by PWID *who commented*, 2013

	National		NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
	2012	2013								
Current availability (%)	N=80	N=64	n=43	n=9 [^]	n=3 [^]	n=4 [^]	n=2 [^]	n=1 [^]	n=1 [^]	n=1 [^]
Very easy	20	28	28	11	33	25	0	100	100	100
Easy	45	42	42	33	67	50	100	0	0	0
Difficult	25	27	26	56	0	25	0	0	0	0
Very difficult	10	3	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current purity (%)	N=74	N=64	n=43	n=8 [^]	n=3 [^]	n=4 [^]	n=3 [^]	n=1 [^]	n=1 [^]	n=1 [^]
High	23	28	21	38	33	100	33	0	0	0
Medium	49	36	40	13	67	0	67	100	0	0
Low	22	27	33	25	0	0	0	0	100	0
Fluctuates	7	9	7	25	0	0	0	0	0	100

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

[^] Small numbers reported; interpret with caution (n<10)

Note: The response option 'don't know' was excluded from analysis

Table 20. Median price of last cocaine purchase, 2012-2013

	Median price \$ per cap		Median price \$ per gram	
	2012	2013	2012	2013
National	50	50	350	325
NSW	50	50	375 [^]	300
ACT	50 [^]	50[^]	350 [^]	350[^]
VIC	-	90[^]	500 [^]	400[^]
TAS	80 [^]	140[^]	400 [^]	-
SA	-	50[^]	-	-
WA	-	-	-	700[^]
NT	-	-	-	-
QLD	-	-	-	300[^]

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

[^] Small numbers reported; interpret with caution (n<10)

CANNABIS

Patterns of Cannabis Use

Table 21. Proportion of PWID who reported cannabis use in the preceding six months, 2003-2013

	National	NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
2003	83	79	86	88	88	80	81	83	76
2004	82	80	85	81	87	83	84	75	75
2005	82	80	89	86	87	80	76	79	76
2006	83	80	90	83	88	77	80	84	85
2007	81	79	83	83	87	81	69	83	84
2008	77	80	80	74	86	75	64	78	82
2009	76	79	81	79	89	61	72	79	69
2010	75	72	81	81	79	66	70	72	77
2011	79	81	87	85	78	69	71	71	79
2012	76	72	81	85	81	61	79	71	70
2013	72	80	75	80	71	61	61	67	67

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

Table 22. Median days of cannabis use in the preceding six months of those who had used cannabis, 2003-2013[#]

	National	NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
2003	180	180	180	170	180	180	100	120	125
2004	180	180	180	180	180	180	120	180	120
2005	178	180	180	130	180	120	139	180	104
2006	170	180	180	180	180	180	105	103	105
2007	175	180	175	120	180	180	90	150	98
2008	180	180	180	175	180	180	72	135	72
2009	180	180	180	100	180	90	96	90	150
2010	180	180	180	180	180	76	113	93	96
2011	180	180	180	180	180	110	98	90	150
2012	160	180	180	178	180	90	120	90	90
2013	170	100	180	163	180	180	170	180	72

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

[#] Among those who had used in the last 6 months Maximum number of days = 180. See page 1 for guide

Availability, Potency and Price

Table 23. Reports of current cannabis availability and potency by PWID who commented, 2013

	National		NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
	2012	2013								
Current availability (%)										
Hydro	N=536	N=464	n=97	n=61	n=76	n=61	n=51	n=40	n=43	n=35
Very easy	52	53	60	53	51	61	59	28	51	49
Easy	40	40	37	39	43	39	31	48	37	49
Difficult	8	7	3	7	5	0	10	20	12	3
Very difficult	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	5	0	0
Bush	N=230	N=204	n=32	n=26	n=4 [^]	n=45	n=44	n=17	n=16	n=20
Very easy	35	27	9	23	25	42	32	6	31	25
Easy	46	47	63	54	50	53	30	24	50	50
Difficult	17	25	28	19	25	4	32	65	19	25
Very difficult	2	3	0	4	0	0	7	6	0	0
Current potency (%)										
Hydro	N=527	N=461	n=97	n=61	n=75	n=61	n=49	n=40	n=43	n=35
High	59	58	58	49	60	61	67	60	56	51
Medium	29	30	30	39	25	30	22	35	28	31
Low	3	4	3	5	3	3	2	3	7	3
Fluctuates	9	9	9	7	12	7	8	3	9	14
Bush	N=224	N=207	n=33	n=27	n=4 [^]	n=44	n=45	n=17	n=17	n=20
High	20	27	21	37	0	43	29	6	29	5
Medium	52	54	55	48	75	43	58	82	41	60
Low	24	9[↓]	15	7	25	5	4	12	24	5
Fluctuates	4	10	9	7	0	9	9	0	6	30

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

Note: The response option 'don't know' was excluded from analysis

Table 24. Median price of last cannabis purchase, 2012-2013

	Median price \$ per gram				Median price \$ per ounce			
	Hydro		Bush		Hydro		Bush	
	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013
National	20	20	20	20	20	300	200	240
NSW	20	20	20	20	320	300	280 [^]	240
ACT	20	20	20	20	290	300	220 [^]	265
VIC	20	20	20 [^]	-	250	250	240 [^]	150[^]
TAS	25	25	25	20	250	280	200 [^]	245[^]
SA	25 [#]	25[#]	25 [#]	25[#]	220	200	180 [^]	205[^]
WA	25	28	25	30[^]	350	350	250 [^]	200[^]
NT	30	30	30	30[^]	420	450	300 [^]	300[^]
QLD	25	20	25 [^]	20[^]	300 [^]	300[^]	60 [^]	225[^]

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

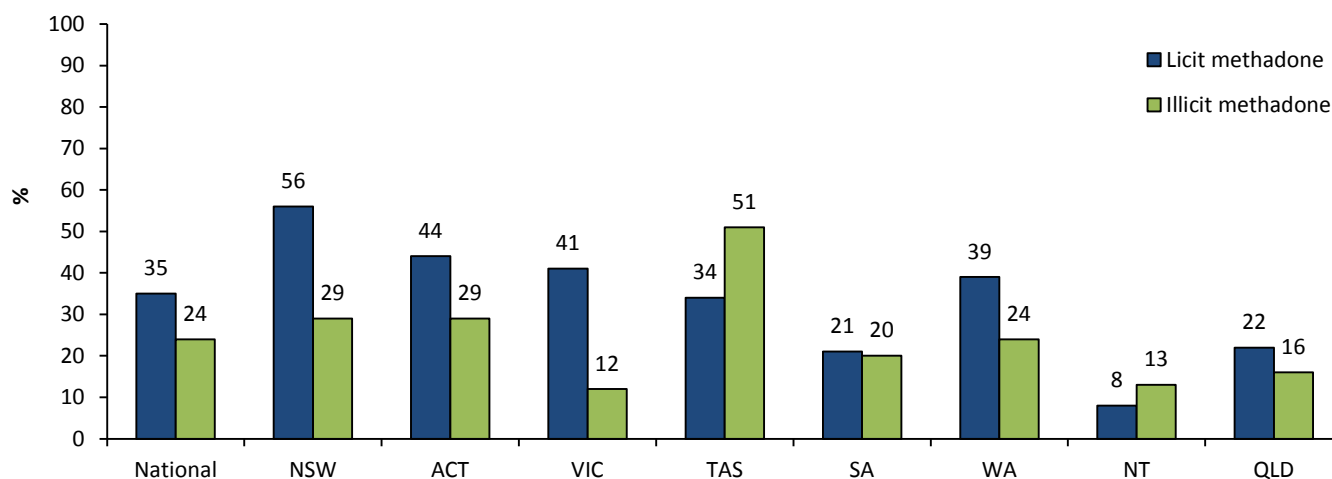
[^] Small numbers reported; interpret with caution (n<10)[#] SA purchase is per bag instead of per gram

USE OF OTHER DRUGS

The following figures reflect use by current injecting drug users; therefore figures should not be viewed as representative of people in opioid substitution therapy or drug dependence treatment programs more generally. 'Licit' refers to drugs that were prescribed directly to the participant, while 'illicit' refers to drugs that were directly prescribed to another person.

Recent use of methadone

Figure 1: Proportion of PWID who reported the use of licit (prescribed) and illicit methadone (any form) in the preceding six months, 2013



Source: IDRS PWID interviews

Note: Recent use includes methadone syrup and Physeptone tablets

Methadone injection

Table 25. Proportion of PWID who reported injecting methadone in the preceding six months, 2003-2013[#]

	National	NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
2003	28	16	34	2	81	25	19	43	26
2004	29	28	32	5	81	21	14	32	29
2005	26	14	31	3	69	24	26	35	26
2006	30	25	40	7	72	26	30	32	22
2007	30	20	45	11	69	27	33	32	21
2008	30	23	38	15	81	11	14	41	26
2009	26	27	37	13	77	10	10	26	13
2010	26	25	34	11	65	16	14	30	18
2011	26	31	28	9	62	14	20	25	20
2012	22	19	22	8	55	14	29	22	12
2013	24	31	28	5	57	15	25	14	17

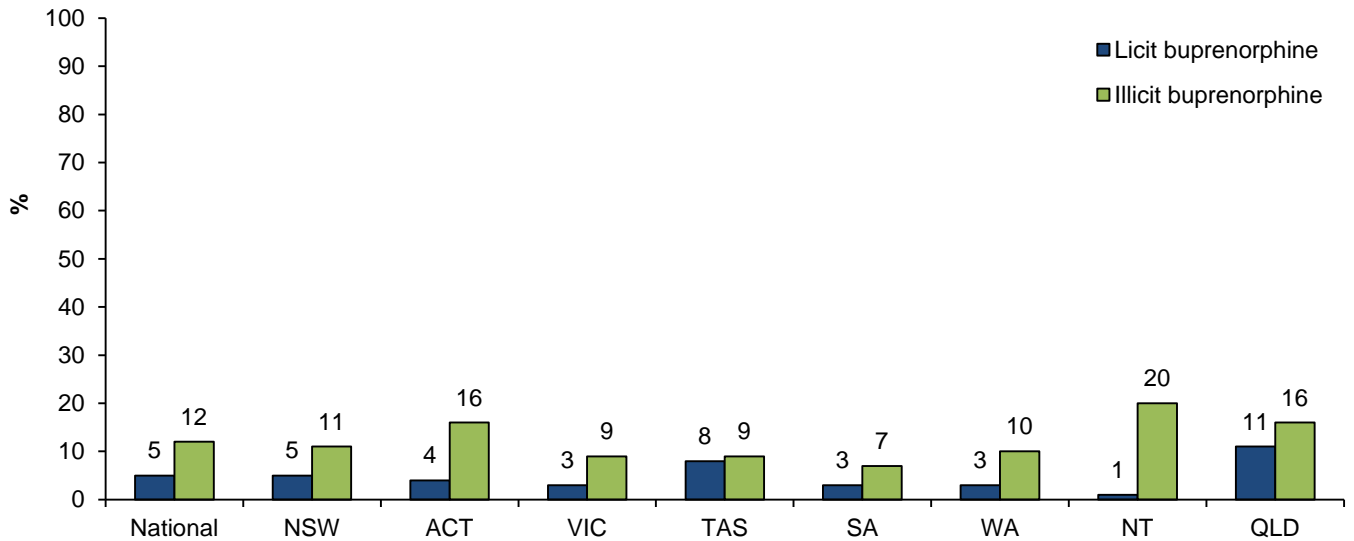
Source: IDRS PWID interviews

[#] From 2003 these figures include licit and illicit methadone and Physeptone

Note: Recent injection includes methadone syrup and Physeptone tablets

Recent use of buprenorphine

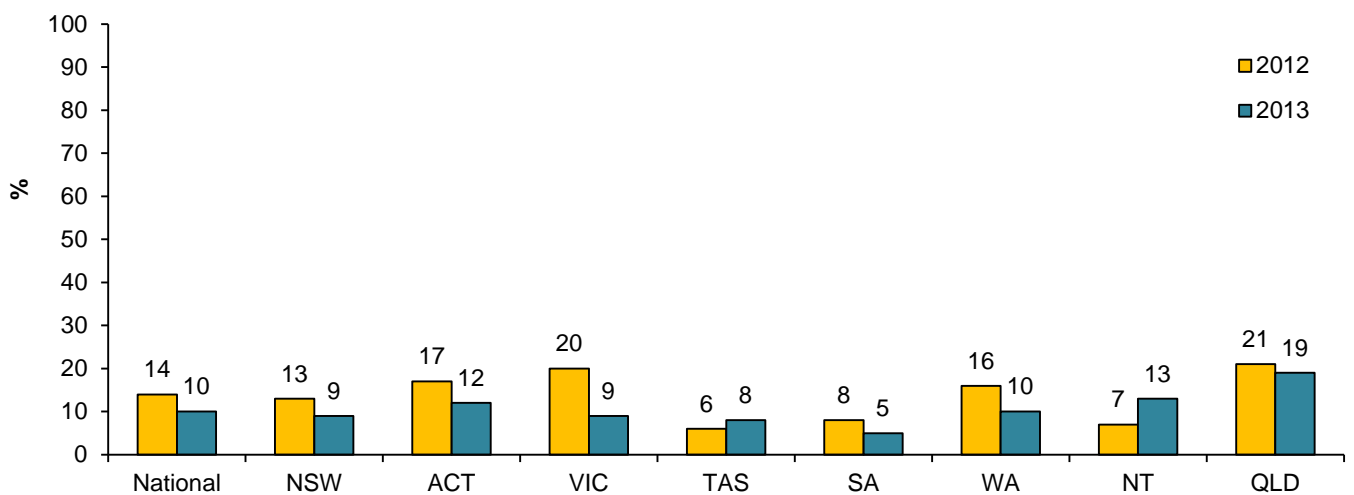
Figure 2: Proportion of PWID who reported use of licit (prescribed) and illicit buprenorphine in the preceding six months, 2013



Source: IDRS PWID interviews

Buprenorphine injection

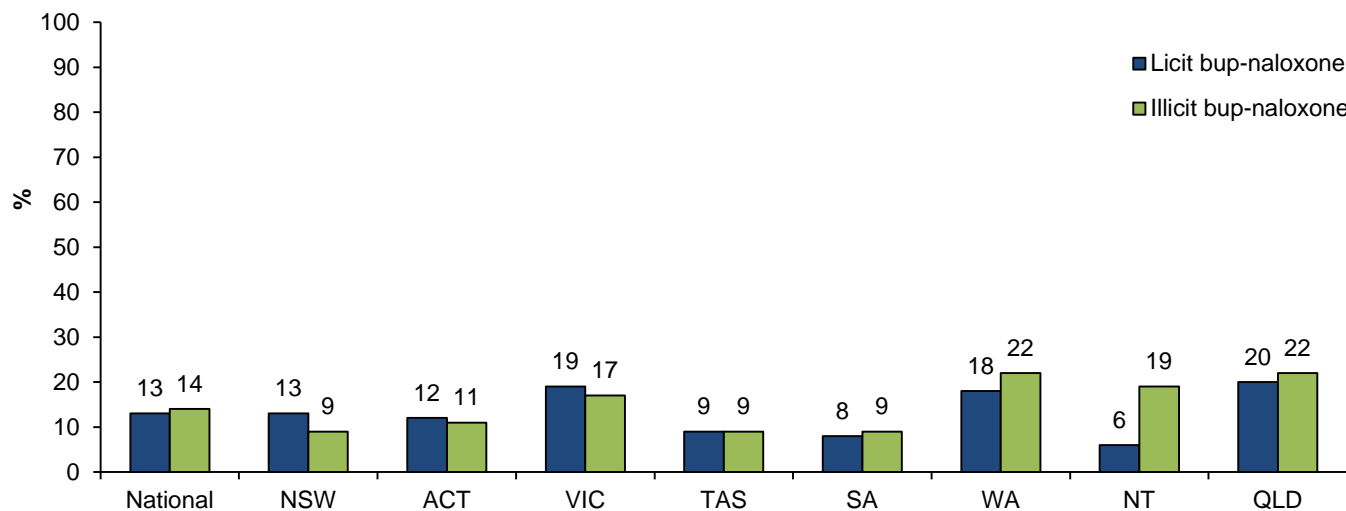
Figure 3: Recent injection of buprenorphine (any form) among the national sample, by jurisdiction, 2012-2013



Source: IDRS PWID interviews

Recent use of buprenorphine-naloxone

Figure 4: Proportion of PWID who reported use of licit (prescribed) and illicit buprenorphine-naloxone in the preceding six months, 2013

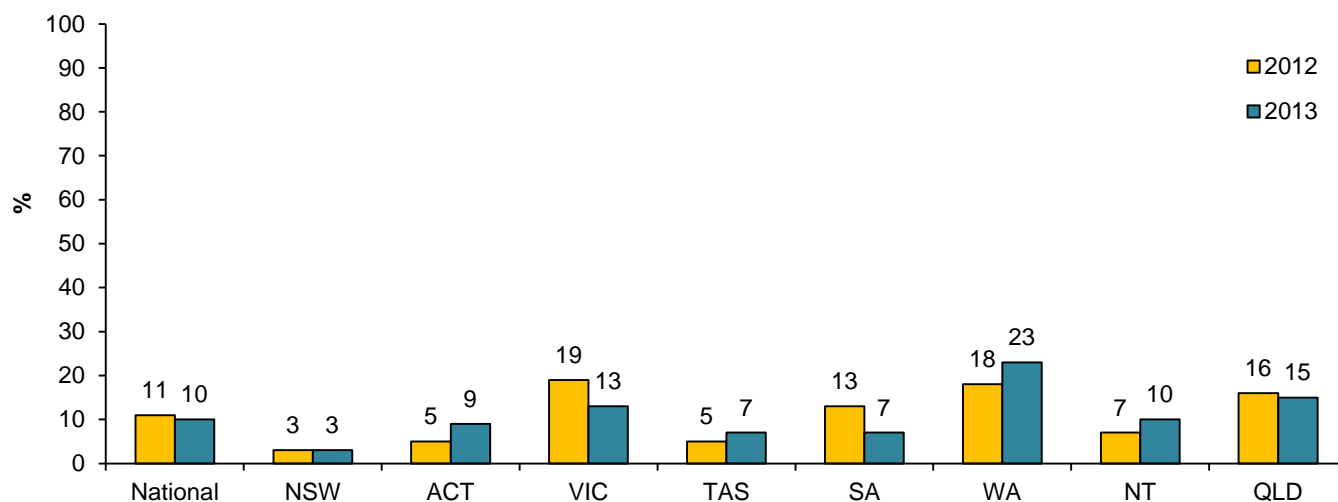


Source: IDRS PWID interviews

Note: Recent use includes buprenorphine-naloxone TABLET and FILM

Buprenorphine-naloxone injection

Figure 5: Recent injection of buprenorphine-naloxone (any form) among the national sample, by jurisdiction, 2012-2013



Source: IDRS PWID interviews

Note: Recent injection includes buprenorphine-naloxone TABLET and FILM

Recent use of morphine

Table 26. Proportion of PWID who reported recent use of morphine (any form), 2003-2013

	National	NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
2003	47	23	50	42	72	43	41	82	42
2004	49	29	40	43	62	42	46	87	50
2005	44	27	37	42	59	37	52	80	32
2006	52	36	57	35	62	51	55	81	53
2007	53	38	56	41	68	44	49	82	56
2008	50	37	40	41	81	35	34	89	54
2009	44	31	43	33	82	24	37	70	42
2010	46	35	43	35	74	25	30	91	42
2011	43	28	34	34	75	23	36	81	41
2012	43	23	36	29	66	28	49	77	39
2013	38↓	21	29	21	66	27	39	80	40

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

Note: In 2013 nationally, recent use of morphine licit = 6% and illicit =35%

Morphine injection

Table 27. Recent injection of morphine (any form) among the national sample, by jurisdiction, 2007-2013

	National	NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
2007	50	34	50	39	66	41	49	76	58
2008	47	29	37	37	81	35	32	87	53
2009	42	30	41	31	81	22	34	68	41
2010	43	31	39	29	74	24	29	91	38
2011	41	23	26	33	72	20	36	78	46
2012	40	21	29	25	66	27	47	74	33
2013	35	19	24	19	65	23	38	78	36

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

Note: In 2013 nationally, recent injection of morphine licit = 5% and illicit =33%

Recent use of oxycodone

Table 28. Proportion of PWID who reported recent use of oxycodone (any form), 2005-2013

	National	NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
2005	21	16	17	19	31	17	41	11	19
2006	26	20	26	27	30	22	44	11	27
2007	30	28	26	29	42	20	46	12	39
2008	30	31	31	27	54	15	27	31	29
2009	32	28	30	27	56	11	33	41	35
2010	32	36	14	32	61	21	26	33	29
2011	36	38	25	41	47	26	33	32	39
2012	39	50	35	29	59	30	53	22	35
2013	36	43	20	25	62	27	39	28	44

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

Note: Data collection commenced in 2005.

In 2013 nationally, recent use of oxycodone licit = 7% and illicit =32%

Oxycodone injection

Table 29. Recent injection of oxycodone (any form) among the national sample, by jurisdiction, 2007-2013

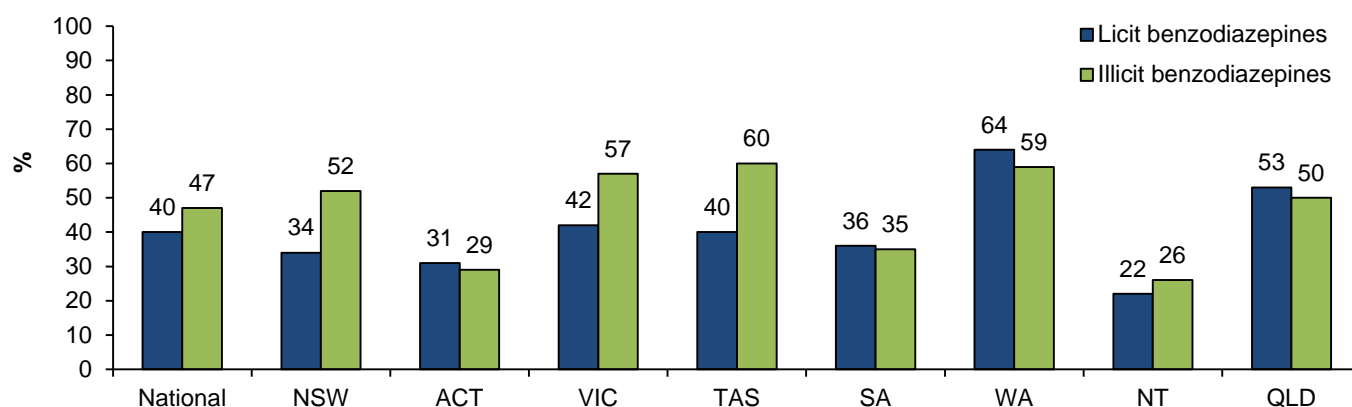
	National	NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
2007	27	25	23	28	30	20	43	9	38
2008	26	24	25	24	47	11	24	29	27
2009	29	26	27	24	56	11	29	30	34
2010	28	31	11	29	57	18	24	28	27
2011	31	32	17	36	44	20	31	27	41
2012	33	42	31	24	59	23	48	20	24
2013	31	37	18	22	60	15	35	23	36

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

Note: In 2013 nationally, recent injection of oxycodone licit = 3% and illicit =30%

Recent use of benzodiazepines

Figure 6: Proportion of PWID who reported use of licit (prescribed) and illicit benzodiazepines in the preceding six months, 2013



Source: IDRS PWID interviews

Note: Recent use includes Alprazolam and other benzodiazepines

Benzodiazepine injection

Table 30. Recent injection of benzodiazepines (any form) among the national sample, by jurisdiction, 2003-2013

	National	NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
2003	17	20	9	15	31	8	12	30	11
2004	14	13	7	16	30	9	12	20	8
2005	8	2	2	6	23	2	7	21	7
2006	12	4	1	9	34	10	11	19	10
2007	11	<1	11	11	29	7	9	20	3
2008	11	3	7	7	36	2	3	26	5
2009	8	3	3	6	25	4	3	22	4
2010	8	6	1	4	16	3	3	23	5
2011	10	3	6	8	23	4	6	22	14
2012	7	2	6	4	26	3	6	11	2
2013	6	1	2	2	23	4	0	7	7

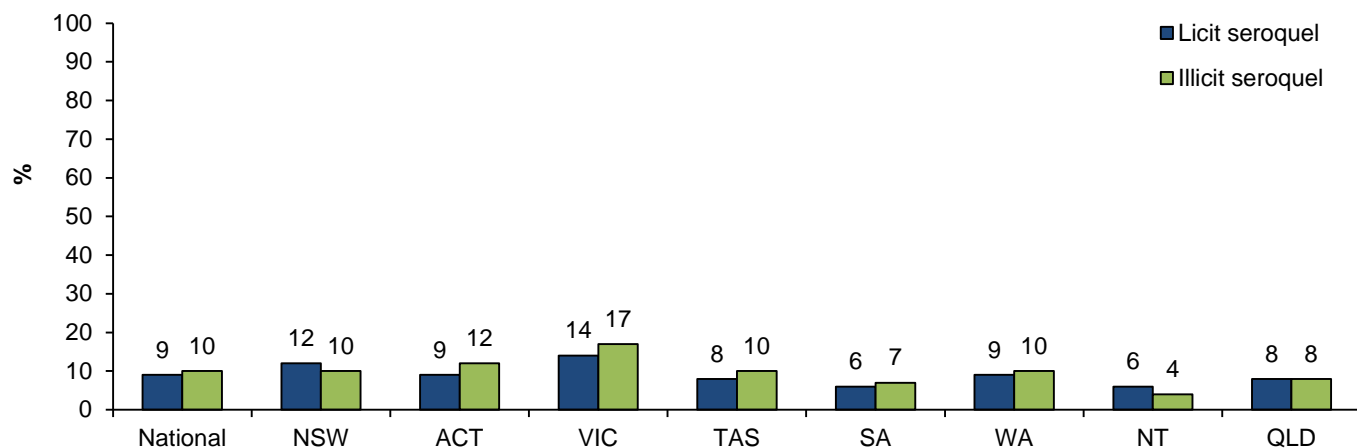
Source: IDRS PWID interviews

Note: Recent injection includes Alprazolam and other benzodiazepines

In 2013 nationally, recent injection of any benzodiazepine licit = 1% and illicit =5%

Recent use of Seroquel

Figure 7: Proportion of PWID who reported use of licit (prescribed) and illicit seroquel in the preceding six months, 2013



Source: IDRS PWID interviews

Note: Recent Seroquel use (any form) significantly decreased from 25% in 2012 to 18% in 2013

Alcohol and tobacco

Table 31. Patterns of alcohol and tobacco use by PWID in the preceding six months, 2013

	National		NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
	N=924	N=887	n=151	n=100	n=150	n=107	n=100	n=88	n=91	n=100
	2012	2013								
Recent use (%)										
Alcohol	64	59	66	61	55	40	64	67	58	66
Tobacco	93	91	95	89	94	85	89	89	89	94
Median days used by those who had used[#]										
Alcohol	24	24	24	24	48	12	24	15	90	6
Tobacco	180	180	180	180	180	180	180	180	180	180

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

[#] Maximum number of days, i.e. daily use = 180. See page 1 for guide.

HEALTH RELATED DRUG PROBLEMS

Injection-related issues

Table 32. Proportion of injection-related issues in last month, 2013

	National		NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
	N=924	N=887	n=151	n=100	n=150	n=107	n=100	n=88	n=91	n=100
	2012	2013								
Scarring/bruising	39	37	48	39	31	35	49	31	32	32
Difficult injecting	34	33	46	30	21	35	40	34	25	36
Dirty hit	20	11↓	9	7	5	15	14	15	13	11
Infection/abscess (%)	8	5	6	4	3	3	7	6	4	8
Thrombosis	5	3	5	3	4	1	5	3	4	4
Overdose	5	2	3	1	3	0	2	1	3	1

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

Table 33. Injecting risk behaviour in last month, 2013

	National		NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
	N=924	N=887	n=151	n=100	n=150	n=107	n=100	n=88	n=91	n=100
	2012	2013								
Borrowed a needle (%)	7	7	7	6	12	7	3	3	2	13
Lent a needle (%)	14	11↓	12	10	17	5	6	16	3	13
Shared injecting equipment [^] (%)	25	24	29	24	25	29	15	27	20	22
Reused own needle (%)	47	40↓	42	49	41	48	41	38	22	40
Reused own injecting equipment (%)	62	56↓	53	59	43	55	46	76	51	59
Injecting equipment reused[#] (%)	N=573	N=465	n=79	n=59	n=65	n=59	n=46	n=57	n=46	n=54
Spoons	88	81	81	78	86	68	78	84	89	87
Filters	11	11	23	7	14	5	7	14	7	6
Tourniquets	43	40	48	34	17	42	46	61	54	17
Water	13	15	34	22	6	14	4	16	9	4
Swabs	4	2	8	0	0	3	0	0	2	0
Wheel filters	6	1	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	2
Other	<1	1	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	2
Last site of injection	N=910	N=859	n=150	n=100	n=149	n=105	n=100	n=75	n=89	n=91
Arm	78	74	70	82	77	73	75	63	73	70
Leg	3	6	5	4	3	5	7	4	14	8
Hand/wrist	11	13	15	9	11	14	12	20	8	20
Foot	2	2	1	3	1	2	0	5	1	1
Groin	2	2	3	0	2	4	0	1	1	1
Neck	3	3	3	2	5	2	5	7	0	0
Other	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

[^] includes spoons, water, tourniquets and filters and excludes needles[#] Among those who re-used injected equipment

Note: 'Borrowed' – used a needle after somebody else and 'Lent' – used a needle before somebody else

Mental health problems

Table 34. Self reported mental health problems experienced in the preceding six months, 2013

	National		NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
	N=924	N=887	n=151	n=100	n=150	n=107	n=100	n=88	n=91	n=100
	2012	2013								
Self-reported mental health problem in the last six months (%)	43	44	46	36	52	50	47	38	30	46
Problem in the last six months[#] (%)	N=393	N=388	n=70	n=36	n=77	n=53	n=47	n=33	n=27	n=46
Depression	70	66	66	56	65	74	70	70	67	60
Anxiety	52	46	46	25	42	57	51	49	52	50
Manic-depression/Bipolar	12	10	3	8	12	19	11	18	7	4
Schizophrenia	11	15	13	17	14	17	11	9	22	20
Panic	12	8	4	11	5	17	6	15	4	4
Paranoia	9	4	6	6	5	6	2	3	0	2
Drug induced psychosis	7	4	3	14	3	8	2	3	0	2
Phobias	4	2	1	3	0	9	0	6	0	0
Attended health professional for mental health problem in the last six months[#]	58	74[↑]	63	81	71	81	75	73	78	76
Reasons for not attending a health professional in the last six months (%)	n.a.	N=103	n=26	n=7 [^]	n=22	n=10	n=12	n=9 [^]	n=5 [^]	n=11
Too expensive	n.a.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Self-treated	n.a.	18	23	0	23	20	25	0	0	18
Service too busy/waiting list too long	n.a.	8	15	14	9	10	0	0	0	0
Didn't know who to visit	n.a.	6	8	0	9	0	8	11	0	0
Couldn't be bothered	n.a.	11	8	29	9	10	8	11	0	18
Felt fine/OK	n.a.	4	8	0	9	0	0	0	0	0
Missed appointment	n.a.	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0
Bad experiences	n.a.	7	4	14	5	20	8	0	20	0
Fear of diagnosis	n.a.	2	4	0	0	0	0	11	0	0
Didn't think it was serious enough	n.a.	8	4	14	18	0	0	0	0	18
Don't know/Other	n.a.	36	27	29	18	40	50	67	60	36

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

[#] Among those who reported a mental health issue[^] small numbers reporting (n<10);

Driving risk behaviour

Table 35. Driving risk behaviours among people who inject drugs in the last six months, by jurisdiction, 2013

	National		NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
	N=924	N=887	n=151	n=100	n=150	n=107	n=100	n=88	n=91	n=100
	2012	2013								
Driven in the last six months (%)	44 (N=409)	42 (N=370)	31 (n=47)	35 (n=35)	26 (n=39)	50 (n=54)	60 (n=60)	45 (n=40)	53 (n=48)	47 (n=47)
Driven under the influence of alcohol last six months[^] (%)	20	18	11	23	18	13	28	8	31	11
Driven after taking an illicit drug[^] (%)	77	77	62	83	80	82	80	78	69	81
Drugs used last time[#]	N=313	N=282	n=29	n=29	n=31	n=44	n=48	n=31	n=32	n=38
Heroin	39	32	35	45	48	5	29	61	3	40
Methadone	11	9	21	7	19	7	0	10	3	13
Buprenorphine	1	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	9	5
Bup-naloxone	3	<1	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0
Morphine	17	17	0	0	3	43	2	3	63	18
Oxycodone	5	3	7	0	3	5	4	3	0	3
Speed	10	9	3	0	0	14	27	7	9	3
Base	3	2	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0
Ice	10	14	17	24	13	7	20	16	9	8
Benzodiazepines	5	7	10	0	19	11	0	7	3	8
Cannabis	28	26	24	28	36	27	27	23	19	26

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

[^] Of those who had driven a vehicle in the last six months[#] Of those that had driven after taking an illicit drug

CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

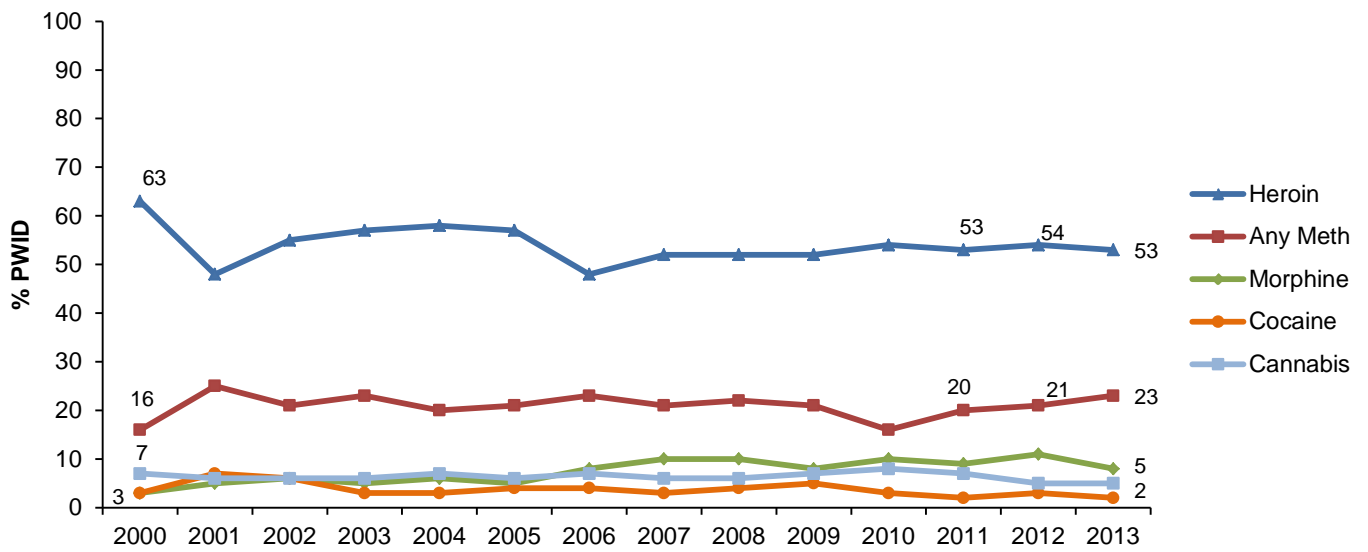
Table 36. Proportion of PWID that reported criminal activity, 2013

	National		NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
	N=924	N=887	n=151	n=100	n=150	n=107	n=100	n=88	n=91	n=100
	2012	2013								
Crime in the last month (%)										
Drug dealing	24	23	30	17	17	26	25	30	10	27
Property	18	18	19	17	21	31	17	15	2	15
Fraud	3	2	3	3	3	2	0	1	3	5
Violence	3	3	7	5	5	2	2	2	0	1
Any crime	37	36	42	32	36	47	39	40	14	35
Arrested last 12 months (%)	33	32	42	22	39	39	30	22	14	37

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

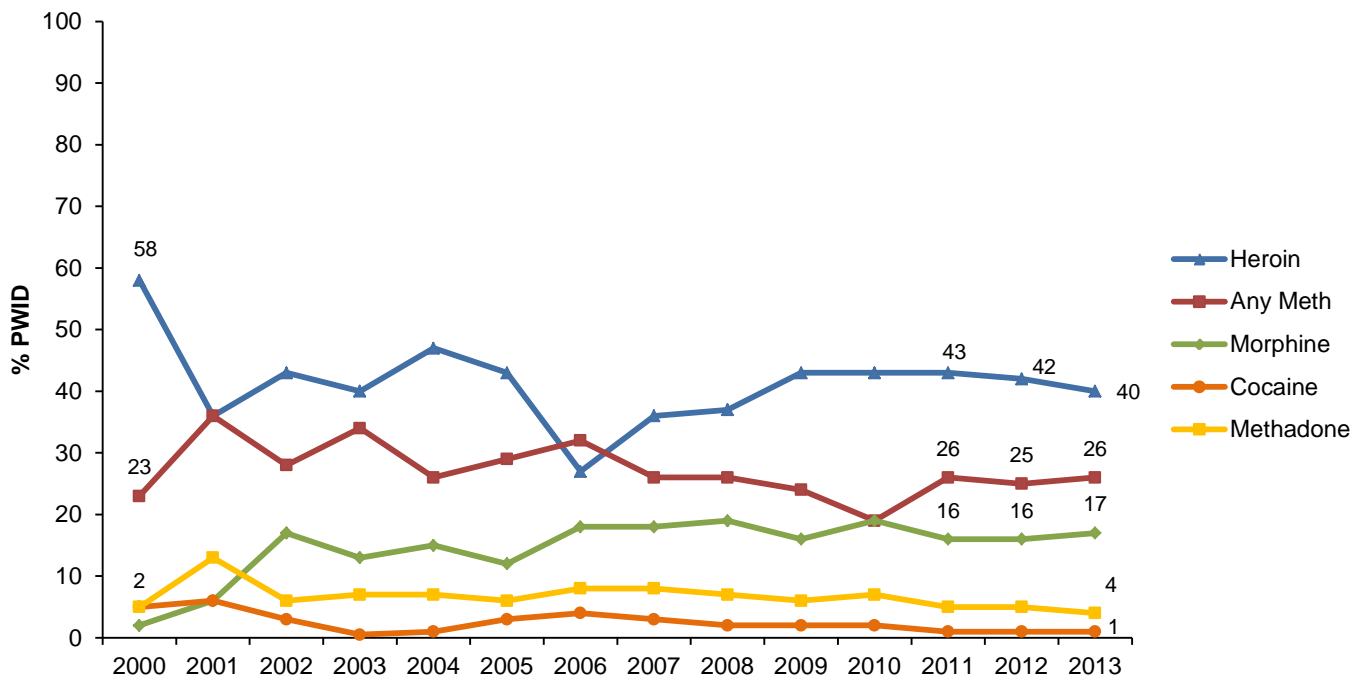
NATIONAL IDRS DRUG TRENDS

Figure 8: Drug of choice, nationally, 2000-2013



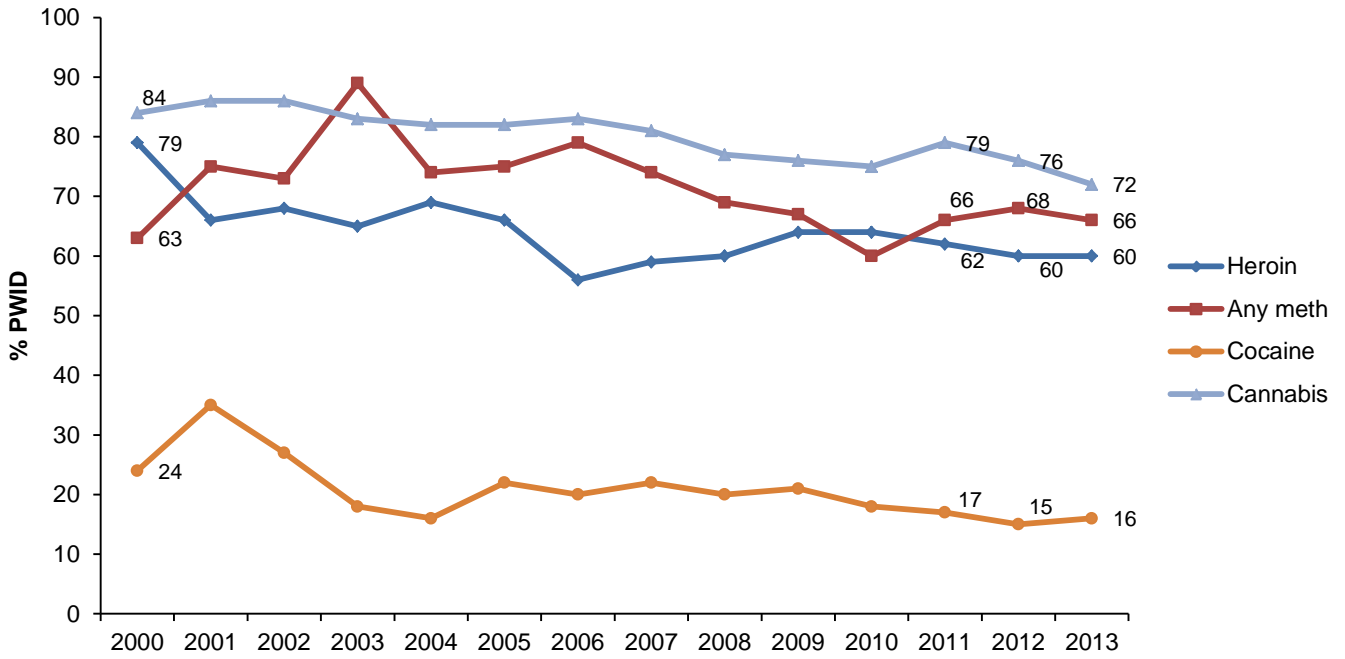
Source: IDRS PWID interviews

Figure 9: Drug injected most often in the last month, nationally, 2000-2013



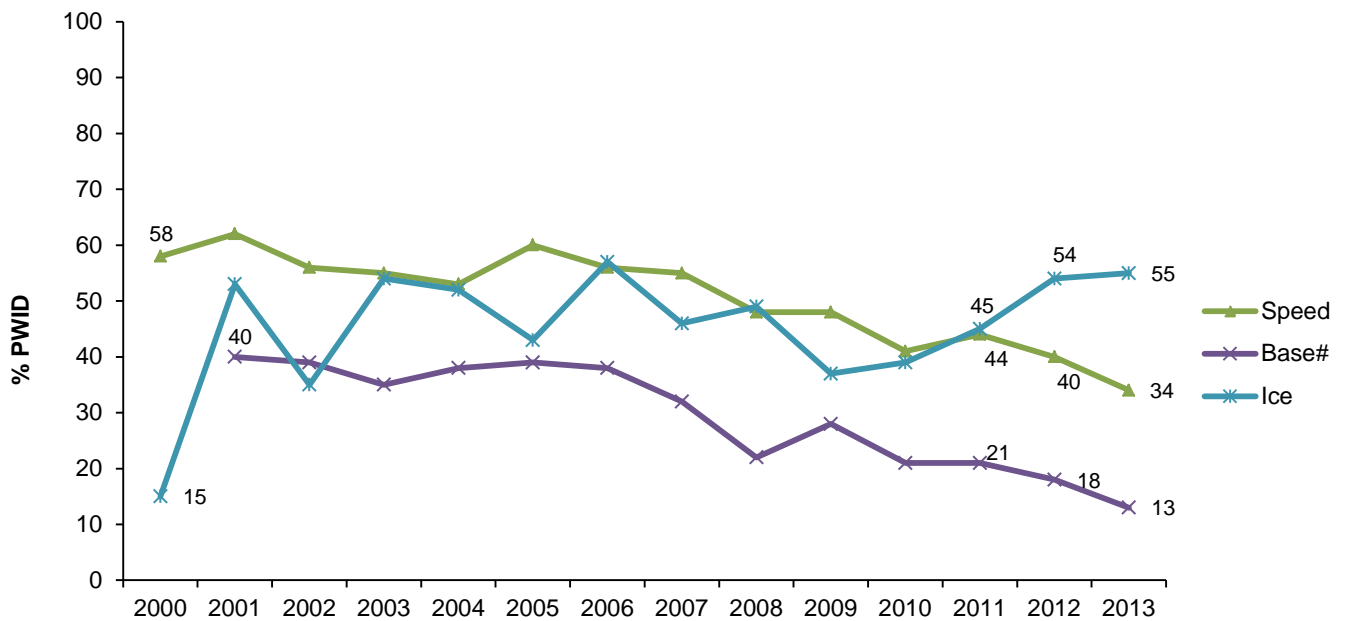
Source: IDRS PWID interviews

Figure 10: Recent use of heroin, any methamphetamine, cocaine and cannabis, nationally, 2000-2013



Source: IDRS PWID interviews

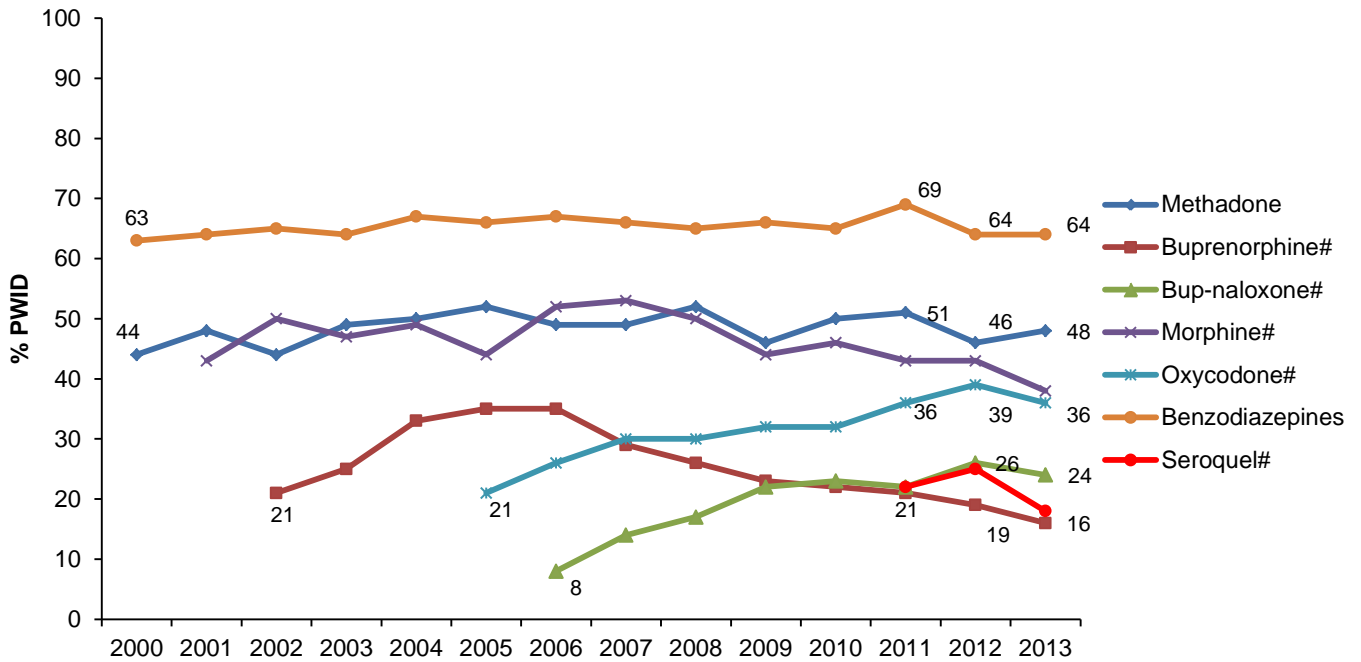
Figure 11: Recent use of speed, base and crystal/ice, nationally, 2000-2013



Source: IDRS PWID interviews

Base asked separately from 2001 onwards.

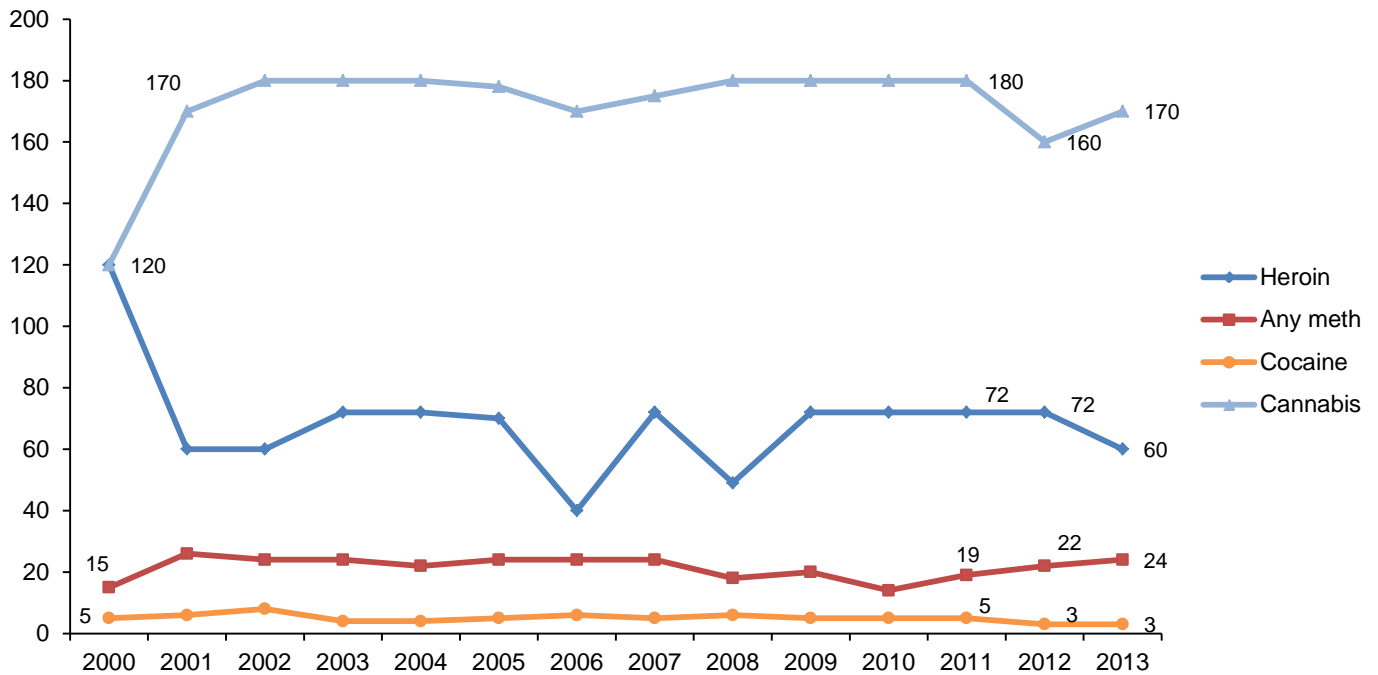
Figure 12: Recent use of other drugs, nationally, 2000-2013



Source: IDRS PWID interviews

Data collection started in 2001 for morphine, 2002 for buprenorphine, 2005 for oxycodone, 2006 for buprenorphine-naloxone and 2011 for Seroquel

Figure 13: Median days of heroin, methamphetamine (any form), cocaine and cannabis use among participants who had recently used, nationally, 2000-2013



Source: IDRS PWID interviews