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Demographics

100 regular psychostimulant users (RPU) were recruited for the 2013 sample. Demographic characteristics remained relatively stable compared to 2012 (see Table 1).

There was a significant increase in the number of full-time students ($p < .001$) and a decrease in the number of individuals currently employed ($p < .001$).

This may be due to the number of people who were both working and studying which was reduced from 22% in 2012 to 1% in 2013 ($p < .001$).

Table 1: Demographic characteristics of EDRS participants, NSW, 2012 and 2013.

Demographic Variables	2012	2013
Age (mean)	25	23
% Male	64	75
% English speaking background	98	96
% ATSI	2	1
% Heterosexual	82	78
Years of School Education (mean)	12	12
% Tertiary Qualifications	39	33
% Students (full-time)	10	40
% Employed*	70	39
Income per week (mean)	N=97 \$527	N=98 \$455
% Currently in drug treatment	3	1

* Includes full-time, part-time and casual employment.

Emerging Psychoactive Substances (EPS) and Synthetic Cannabinoids

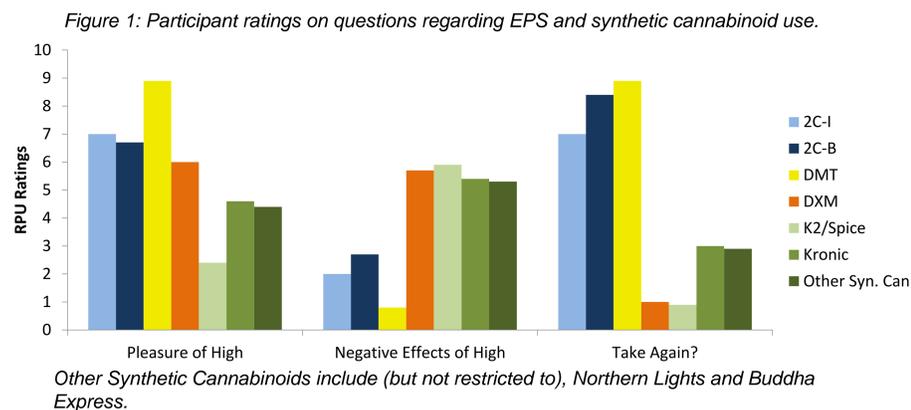
Four-fifths of the sample reported ever using an EPS and 59% reported EPS use in the last 6 months. Only 3% reported purchasing these substances online.

The most notable drugs of this class, used recently, were 2C-B (25%), 2C-I (6%), DMT (9%), DXM (7%) and herbal highs (13%).

The use of synthetic cannabinoids rose from 12% in 2012 to 29% in 2013 ($p < .01$).

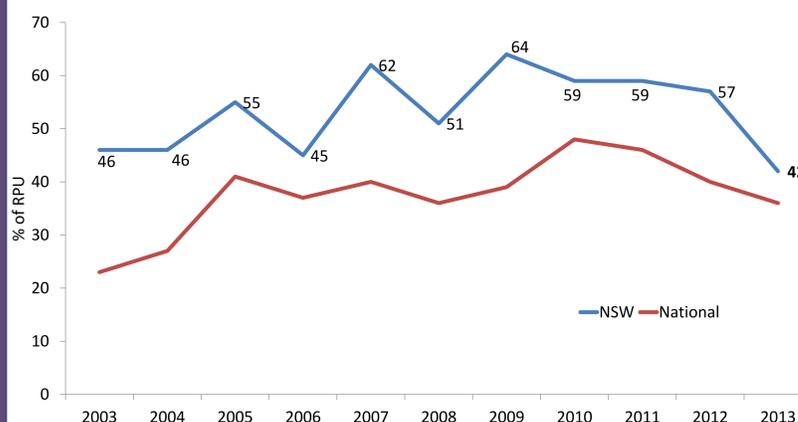
Apart from DXM, of the main EPS used, participants rated the pleasurable aspects highly, the negative effects quite low and users would likely take these drugs again.

User data was the opposite for those who used synthetic cannabinoids (see Figure 1).



Cocaine

Figure 2: Proportion of EDRS participants in NSW and Nationally that used cocaine in the last 6-months (2003-2013).



From 2012 to 2013 there were significant drops in both the lifetime (81% vs. 64%; $p < .05$) and recent (57% vs. 42%; $p < .05$) use of cocaine.

Additionally, significantly less individuals were confident in answering questions on price, purity and availability of cocaine (2012: 46% vs. 2013: 29%; $p < .05$).

A number of key experts commented that cocaine was a very expensive drug and thus was less likely to be used by students without a disposable income.

Looking at the data, full-time students reported less lifetime use than individuals in any form of employment (45% vs. 77%; $p < .01$).

Drug Use, Price, Purity and Availability

Apart from cocaine and LSD, there were no significant changes in the lifetime or recent usage patterns of EDRS participants from 2012 to 2013.

The most prevalent drugs used by the sample in the last six months were similar to the 2012 sample with alcohol (94%) being the most widely used followed by tobacco (84%) and cannabis (90%).

Additionally, 45% of the sample reported taking amyl nitrate and 36% reported taking any form of methamphetamine in the last 6 months.

Participants reported ice/crystal methamphetamine as the most expensive substance at a median of \$400 per gram (low numbers report with caution) followed by cocaine at a median of \$300 per gram.

Hydroponic cannabis was by far the most prevalent and pure drug with 75% of users who commented, reporting it as being very easy to obtain while 49% of commenters rating it as having a high potency. This was followed by ketamine with 71% of commenters reporting a high purity in the market. However 63% of commenters rated ketamine as difficult to obtain.

LSD

The number of people who ever used LSD significantly dropped from 84% to 71% however recent use of the drug (last 6 months) slightly increased from 43% to 51%.

These changes could not be accounted for by differences between students and non-students or the price, purity or availability of LSD.

Looking at use over the past 10 years, recent LSD use has largely increased since 2008 from 18% to 51%.

This may be explained by individuals unknowingly purchasing emerging psychoactive substances ('synthetic LSD') instead of LSD.

Figure 3: Proportion of EDRS participants in NSW and Nationally that used LSD in the last 6-months (2003-2013).



Notable Health Related Issues

- There was a significant decrease in both the lifetime and recent (last 12 months) depressant overdose which may be explained by less individuals ingesting five or more standard drinks alongside ecstasy, compared to 2012 data ($p < .05$).
- There were no significant changes in AUDIT scores (Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test) or the number of days participants used alcohol in the last six months when comparing 2012 and 2013 data.
- In terms of sexual risk behaviour, less participants reported having 2-5 casual sex partners and there were significantly less reports of not using protection while under the influence of drugs.
- 30% of the sample reported having a mental health problem in the last 6 months with the most predominant disorders being Anxiety (21%), Depression (20%) and Paranoia (7%).

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