



The highs and lows of the party

2013 EDRS Key findings

Medicine

National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre

Natasha Sindicich & Lucy Burns

National Drug Trends Conference

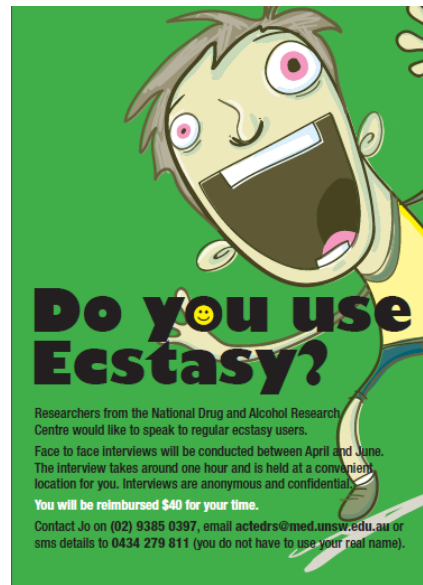
Tuesday, 15th October, 2013



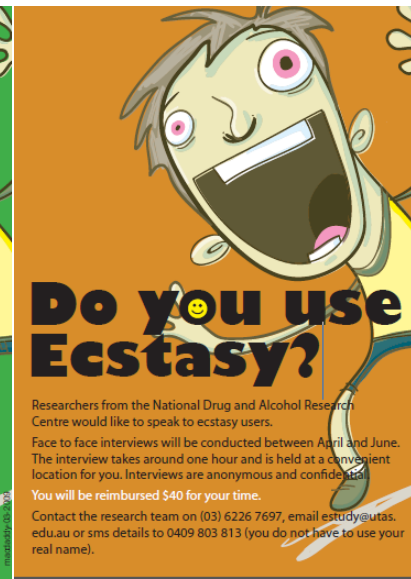


- EDRS participants & Recruitment
- Key findings for drug use patterns & drug markets
- Risk behaviours
- Help seeking
- Implications

Recruitment



2009



2010



2011



2012

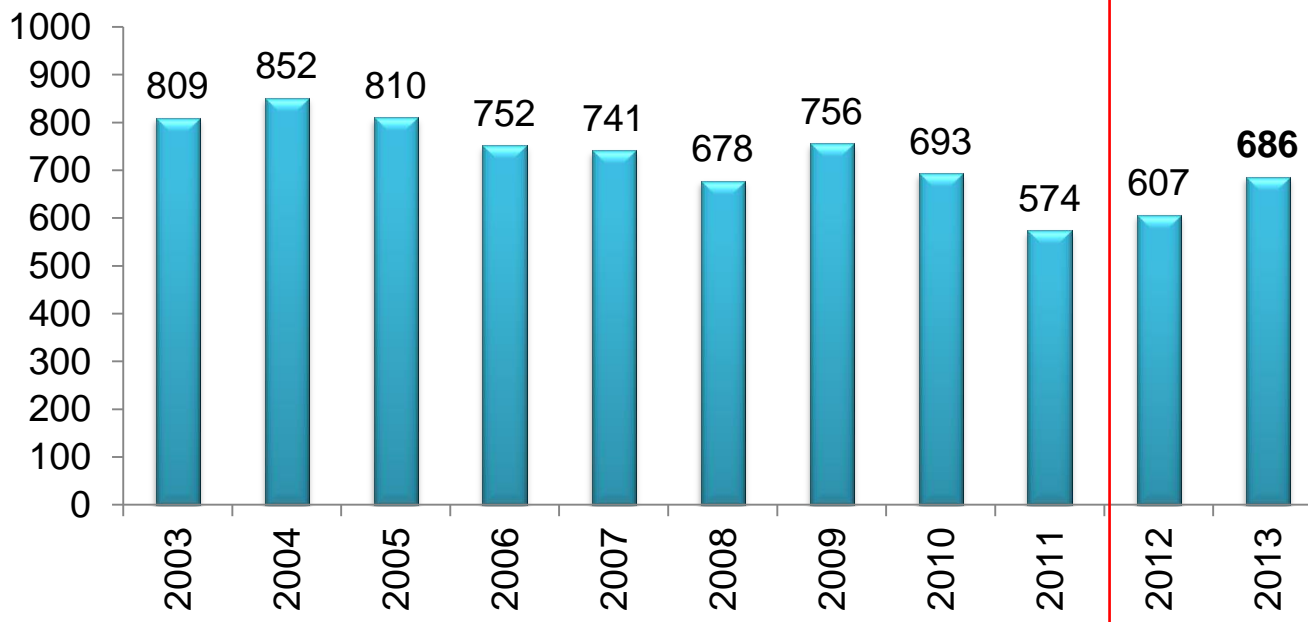


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EDRS Criteria 2003-2013

2013

Number of EDRS participants 2003-2013



Source: EDRS interviews

- Broadened criteria to monthly psychostimulant use
- 11% participants were not REU (n=75)

Do you use Ecstasy type substances?

Researchers from the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre would like to speak to people who use drugs when they are out. Face to face interviews will be conducted during June. The interview takes around one hour and is held at a convenient location for you. Interviews are anonymous and confidential.

You will be reimbursed \$40 for your time.

Contact: NSW 0405 142 787 (Joe)
ACT 0405 140 685 (Kerryn)
VIC 0431 461 545 (Cerissa)
SA 0410 847 033 (Rachel)
QLD 0434 606 981 (Fairlie)
NT 0449 266 047 (Liz)
TAS 0458 748 758 (Research Team)

Click here if you are interested (you do not have to use your real name).

Demographics of EDRS participants

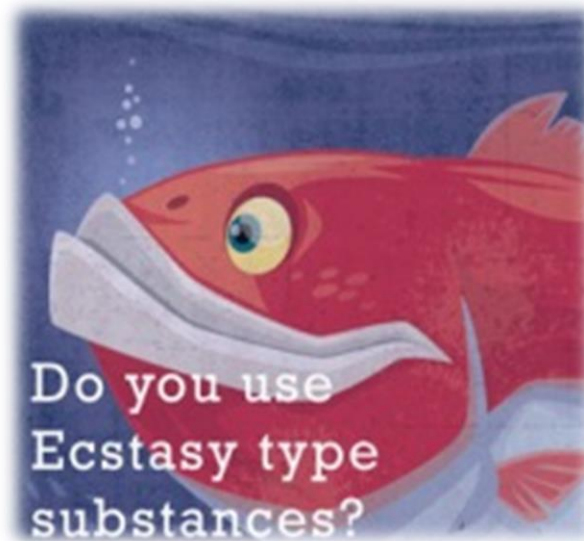


- Mean age 23 years
 - Male (67%)
 - English speaking background (97%)
 - Heterosexual (88%)
 - Tertiary educated (44%)
 - Unemployed (16%)
 - Currently in drug treatment (3%)
-
- Proportions similar to previous years

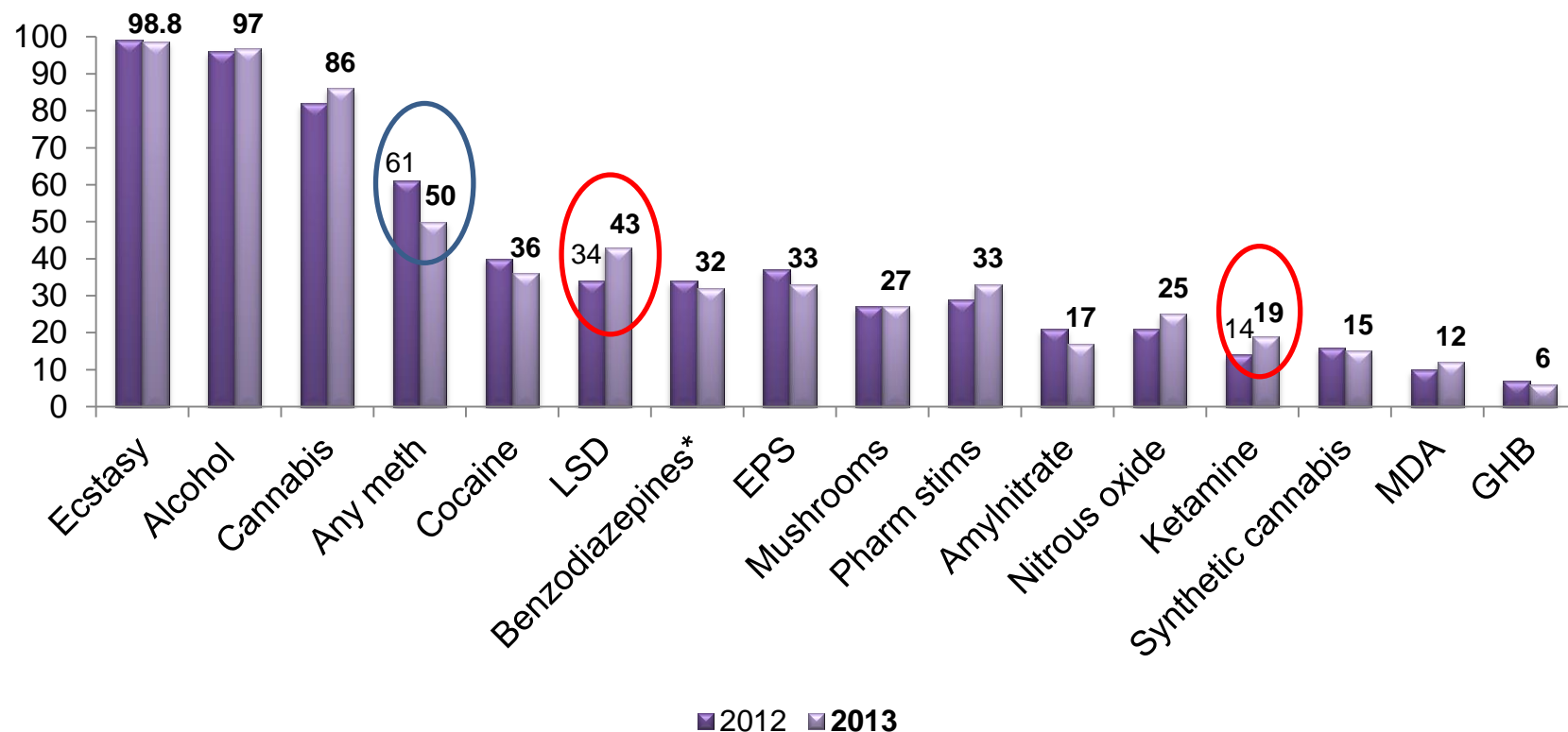




Key Findings



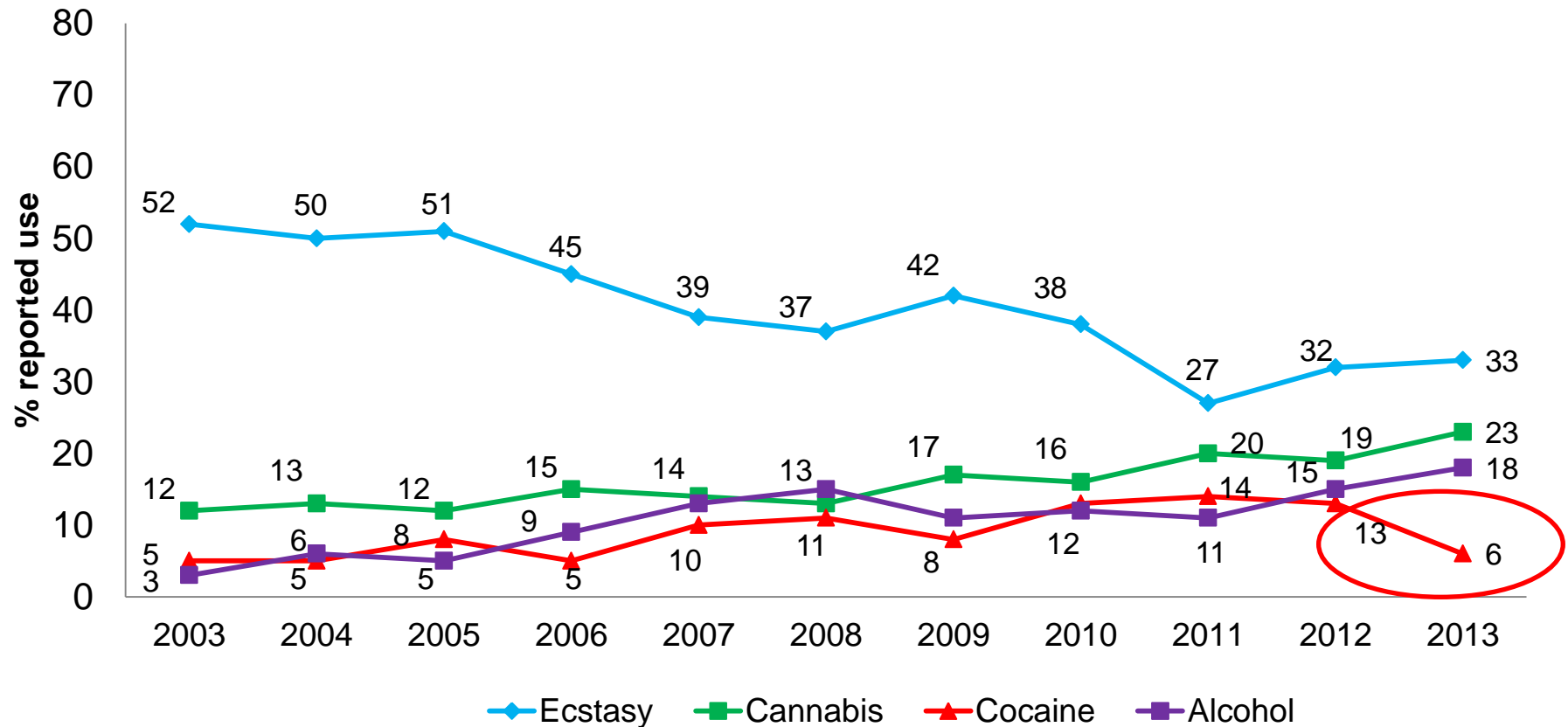
Snapshot overview of results of recent use, 2012-2013



Source: EDRS interviews

* includes licit and illicit use

Drug of choice, 2003-2013



- Preference for ecstasy is steady at 33% as the drug of choice
- Preference for Cocaine as a drug of choice has decreased
- Cannabis is growing in preference, not significant in 2013

Ecstasy (MDMA) use and Market



Ecstasy patterns of use, 2013

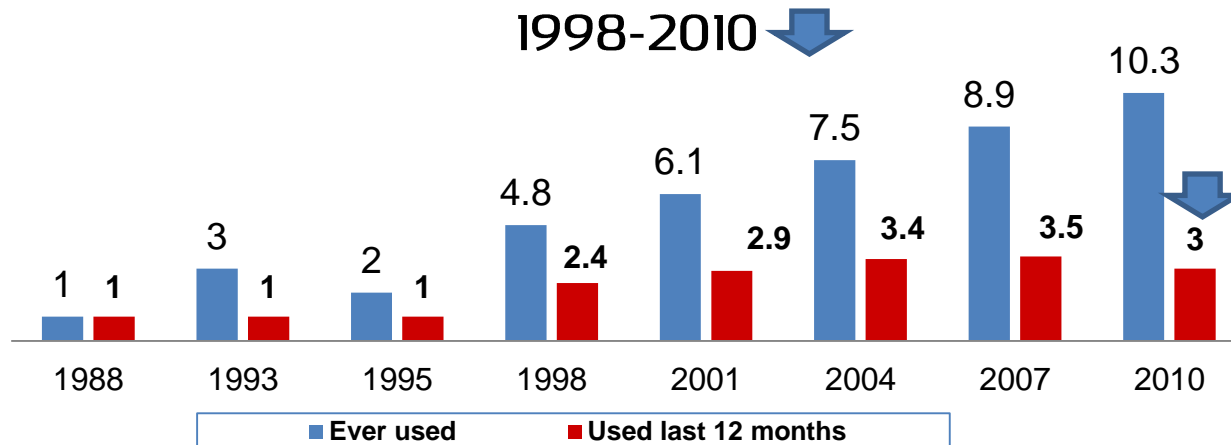
International

- ✓ Ecstasy use declining globally but seems to be increasing in Europe (France)
- ✓ Ecstasy seizures- stable or declining since 2008
- ✓ Manufacture has spread from traditional Europe
- ✓ Precursors to precursors for ecstasy manufacture



National

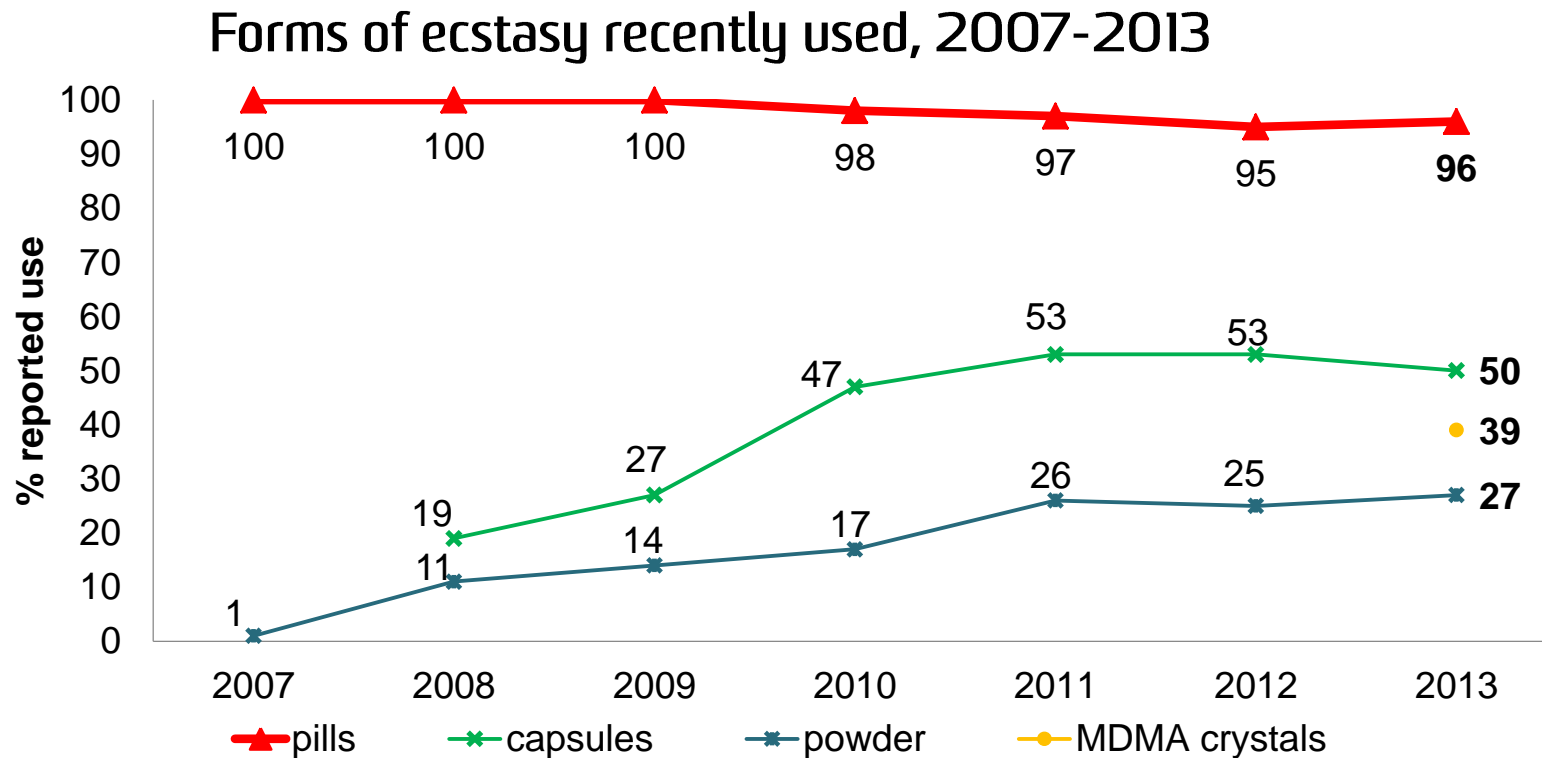
General Australian population ecstasy use,
1998-2010



- Use patterns and median days remained stable (fortnightly use)

Ecstasy patterns of use, 2013

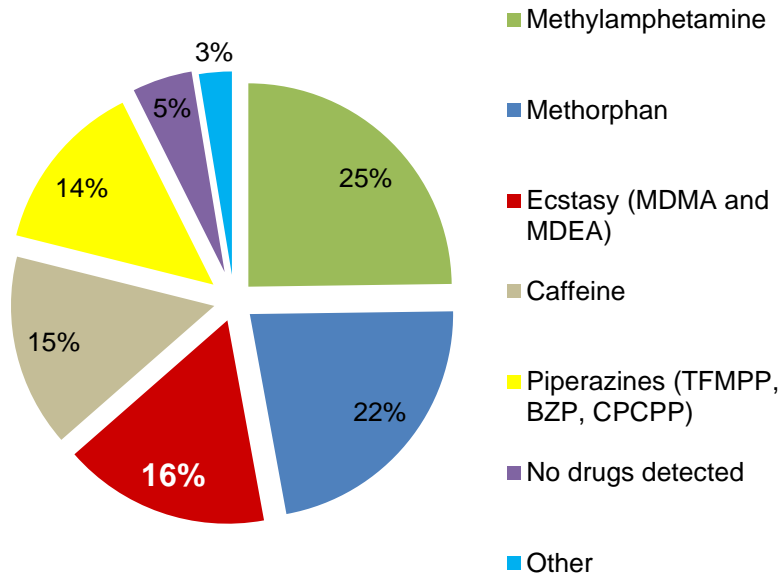
- Forms of ecstasy has continued to broaden increasing use of MDMA crystals



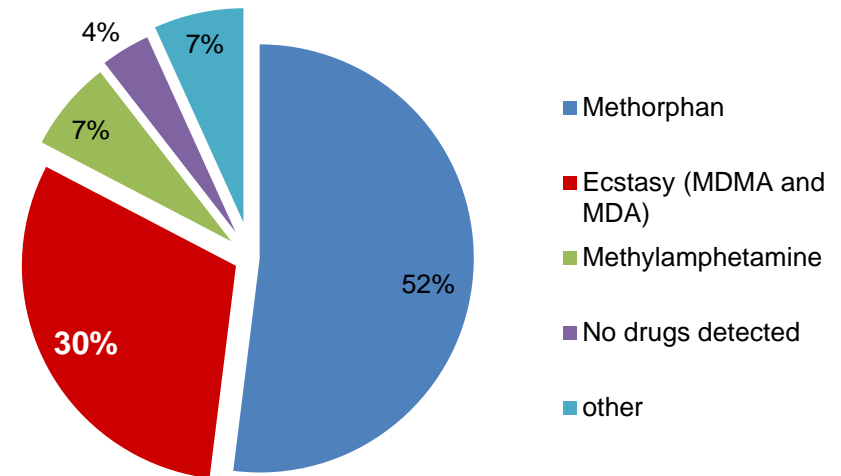
Illicit tablets seized by major drug type

Forensic purity and availability

July 2011- June 2012

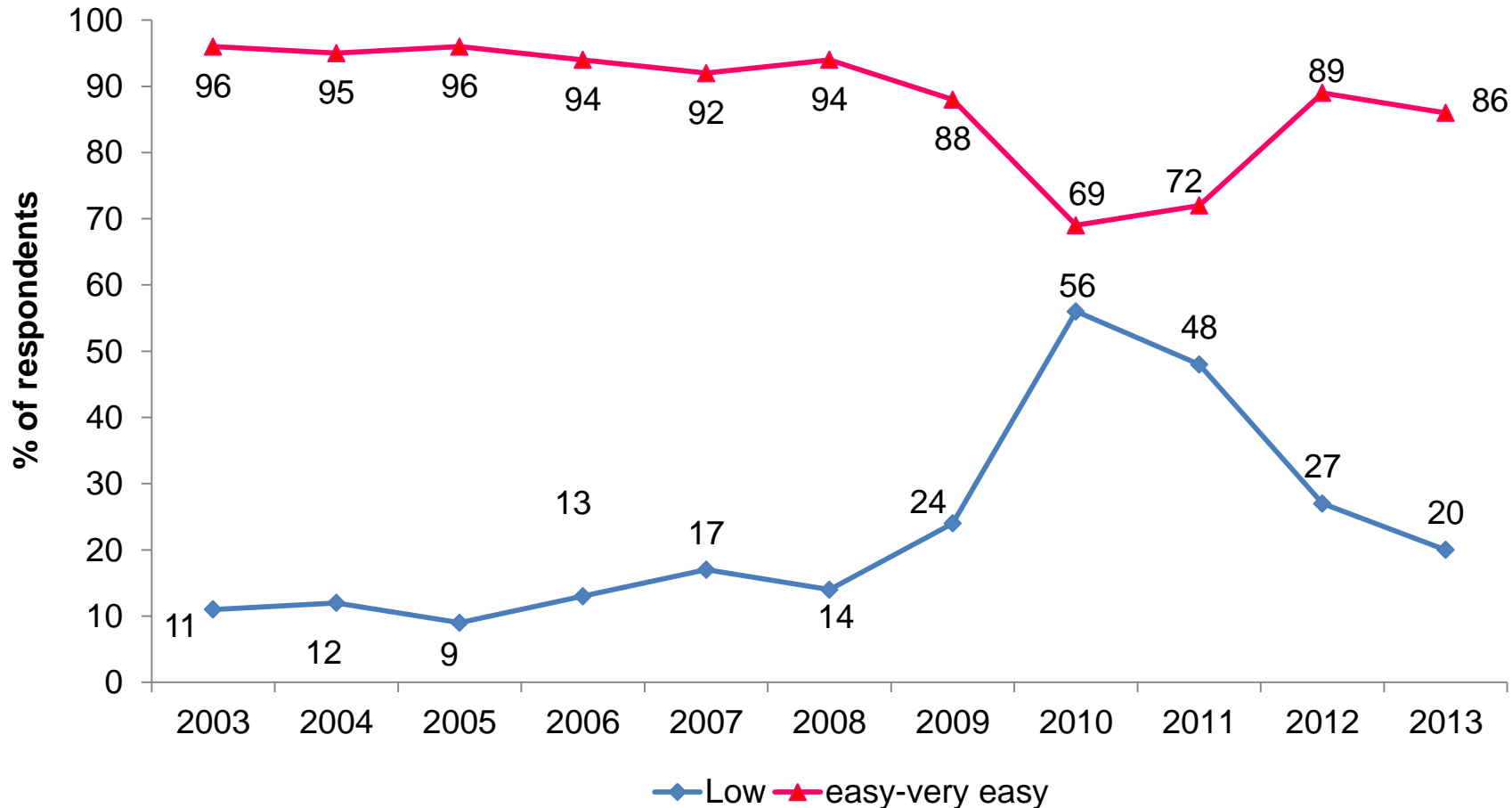


July 2012- June 2013



- Purity of Ecstasy is stable: 'medium' (42% vs. 35%)

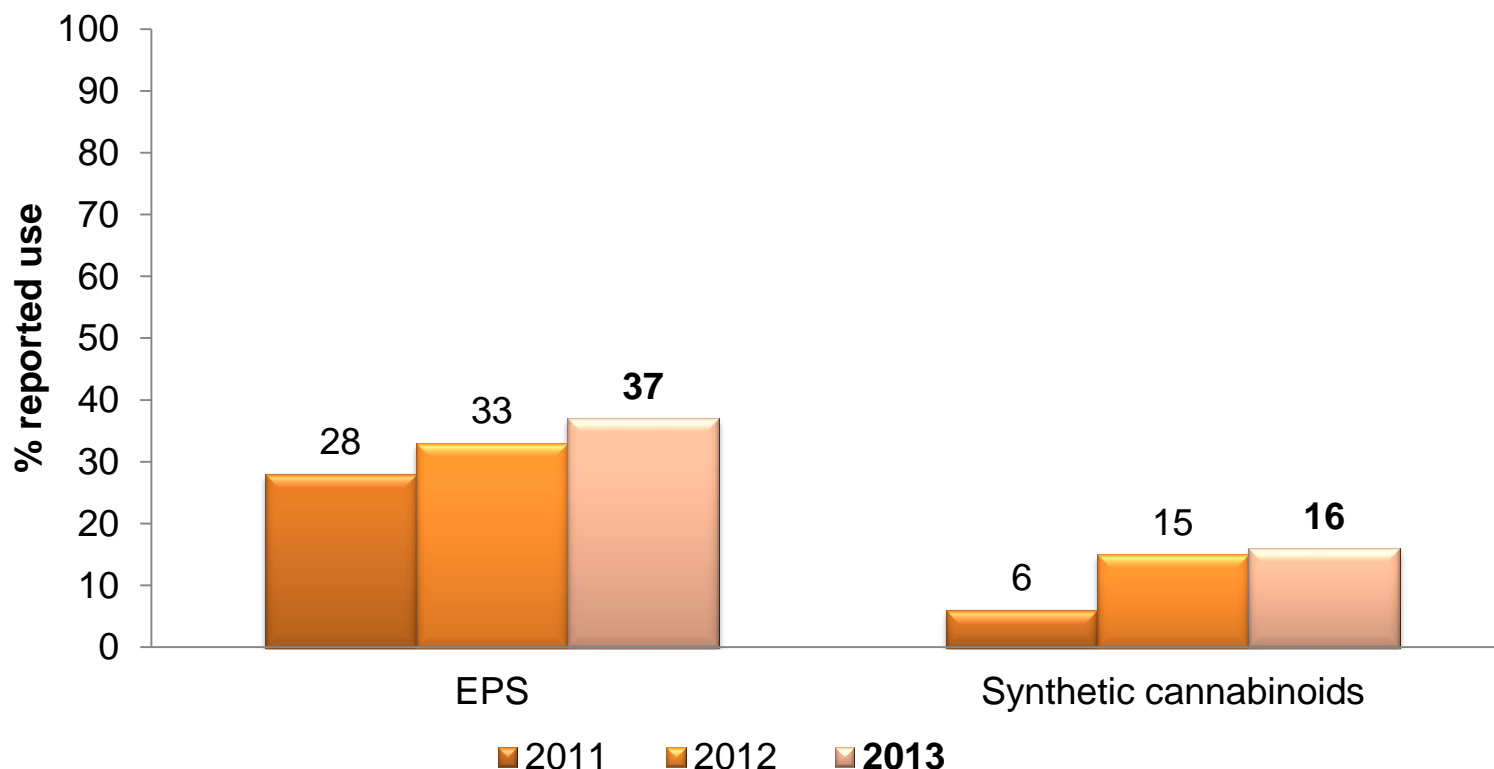
Ecstasy market purity and availability, 2003-2013



Emerging Psychoactive Substances



EPS use, 2011-2013



- EPS including synthetic cannabinoids (40% in 2012 to 44% in 2013)
- EPS purchased online is low (4%)
- EDRS is a major source in providing prevalence estimates on the use of these drugs.

EPS recent use, 2013

	National 2012 N=574	National 2013 N=685	Days of use
Phenethylamines (2C-x Class)	(%)	(%)	Median (range)
2C-B	9	14 ↑	1 (1-48)
2C-I	2	8 ↑	1 (1-30)
2C-E	2	1	1 (1-2)
Synthetic cathinones			
Mephedrone	5	6	2 (1-40)
Methylone/bk MDMA	5	3	2 (1-15)
Ivory Wave/MDPV	2.5	1	1 (1-20)
Piperazines			
BZP	1	<1	1 (-)
Dissociative			
DXM (Cough syrup)	2.5	4	1.5 (1-52)
Methoxetamine (MXE)	1	2	1 (1-3)
Tryptamines			
5MEO-DMT	<1	1	1 (1-48)
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Source: EDRS interviews



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Health effects of EPS, 2013



Mephedrone

Health effects most of the time:



Clenching jaw
and grinding
teeth



Hard to sleep
end of
session

Euphoria
Increased energy
Empathy with others
Urge to move/talk
No appetite



2C-B

Health effects most of the time:

Visual
hallucinations



Addictive properties:

- Usual dose \neq same effect
- Taken for longer and in larger amounts
- Continued use with physical or psychological harm

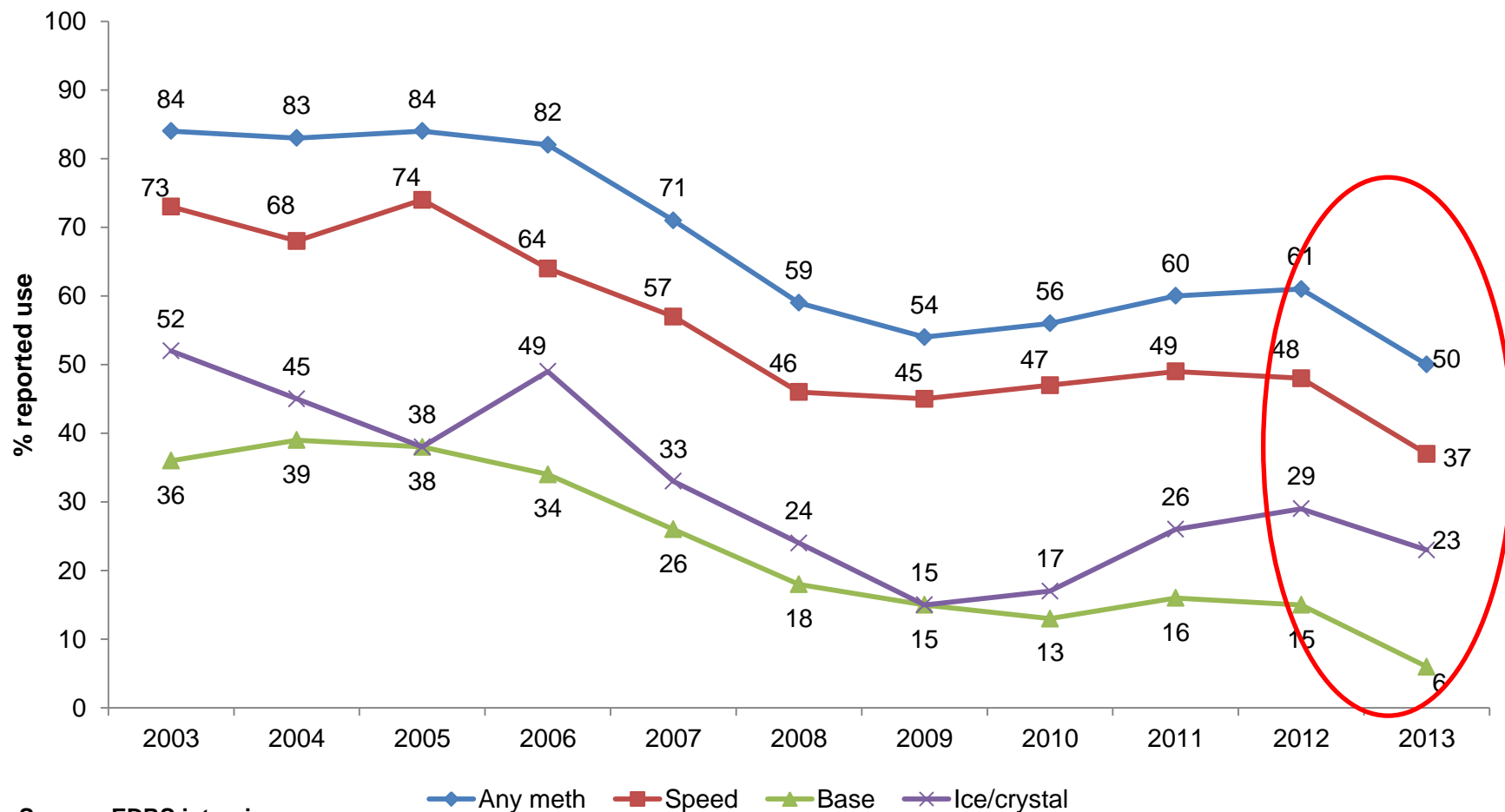
Addictive properties:

- Usual dose \neq same effect
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Factors that had '**no influence**' on purchasing:



- Legality, ease of purchase on the internet and psychoactive effect is short

Recent Methamphetamine use, 2003-2013

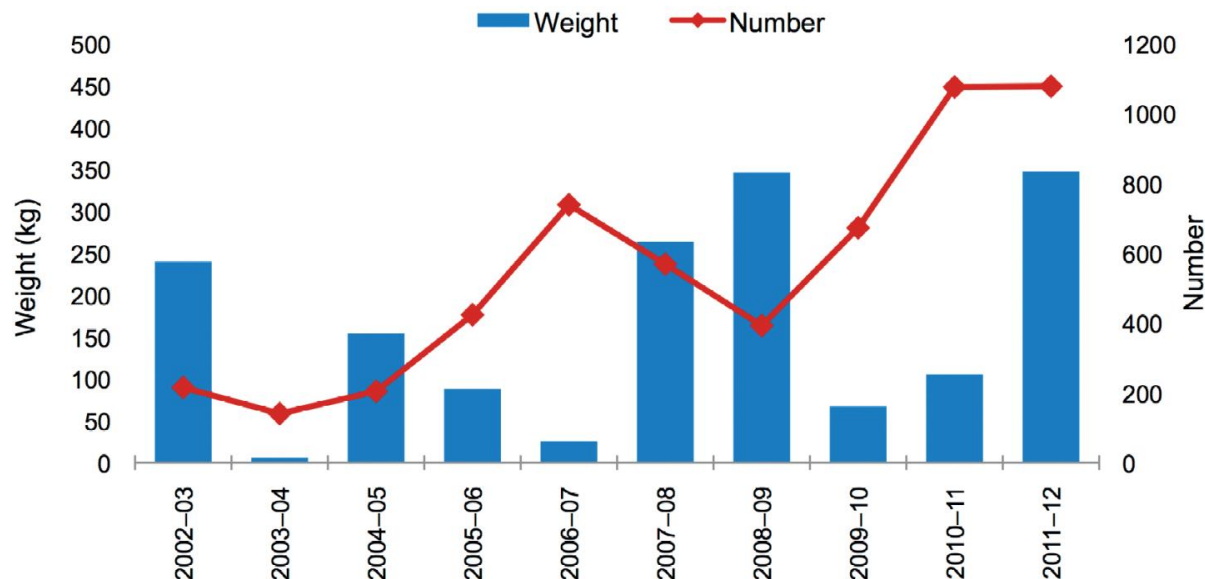


- Median days: ice/crystal 4 days, speed 3 days, base 2 days

Methamphetamine domestic market, 2013

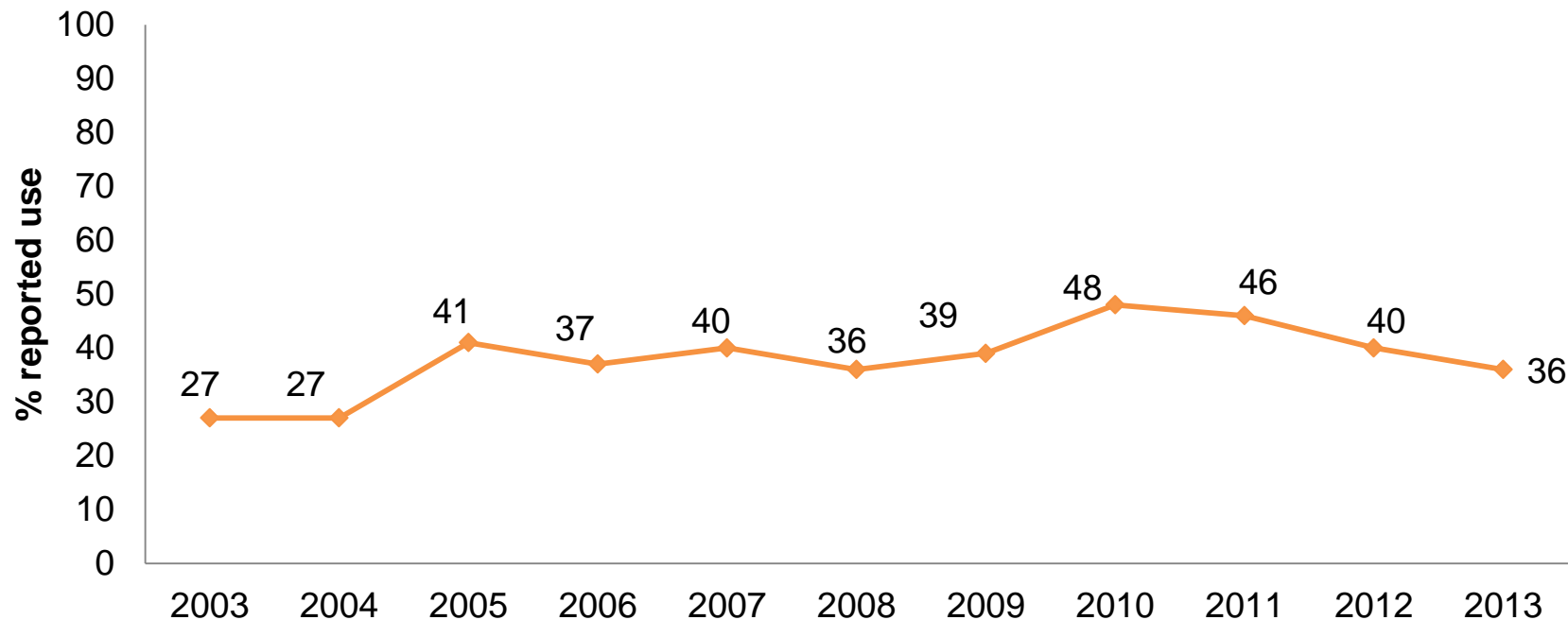
- **Price:** gram speed= point of ice/crystal=
- **Purity:** Speed – med/high, Base – high, **Ice/crystal – high** (decrease 62% to 46%)
- **Availability:** for all forms of methamphetamine ‘easy’ to ‘very easy’ to obtain
- **Customs:** Detections at the border increased and are the highest reported in the last decade.

National ATS seizures by weight and number, 2002-03 to 2011-12



Source: Australian Crime Commission, IDDR

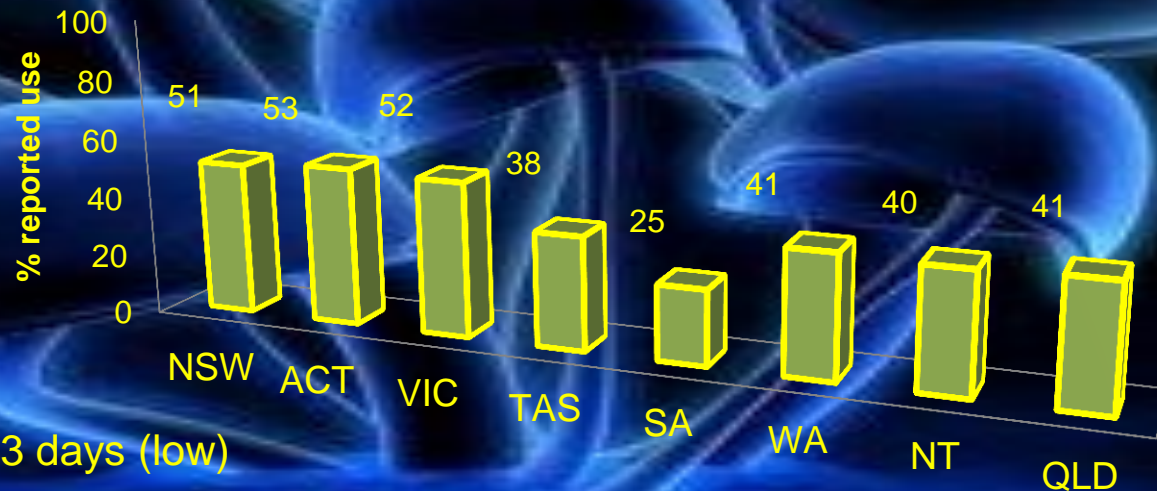
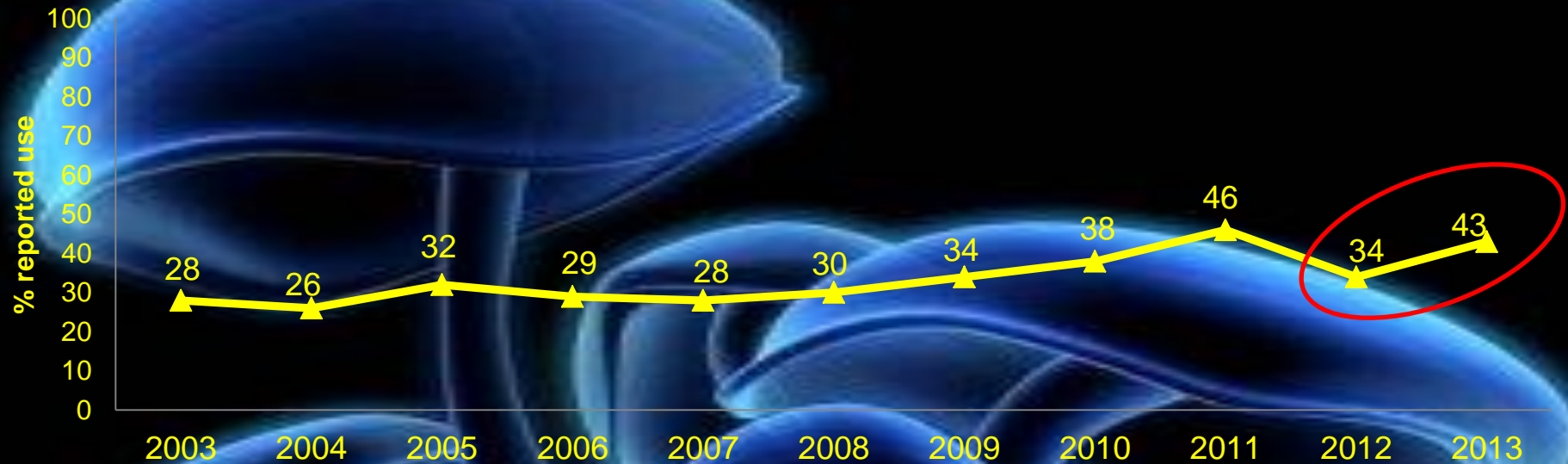
Recent Cocaine use, 2003-2013



Source: EDRS interviews

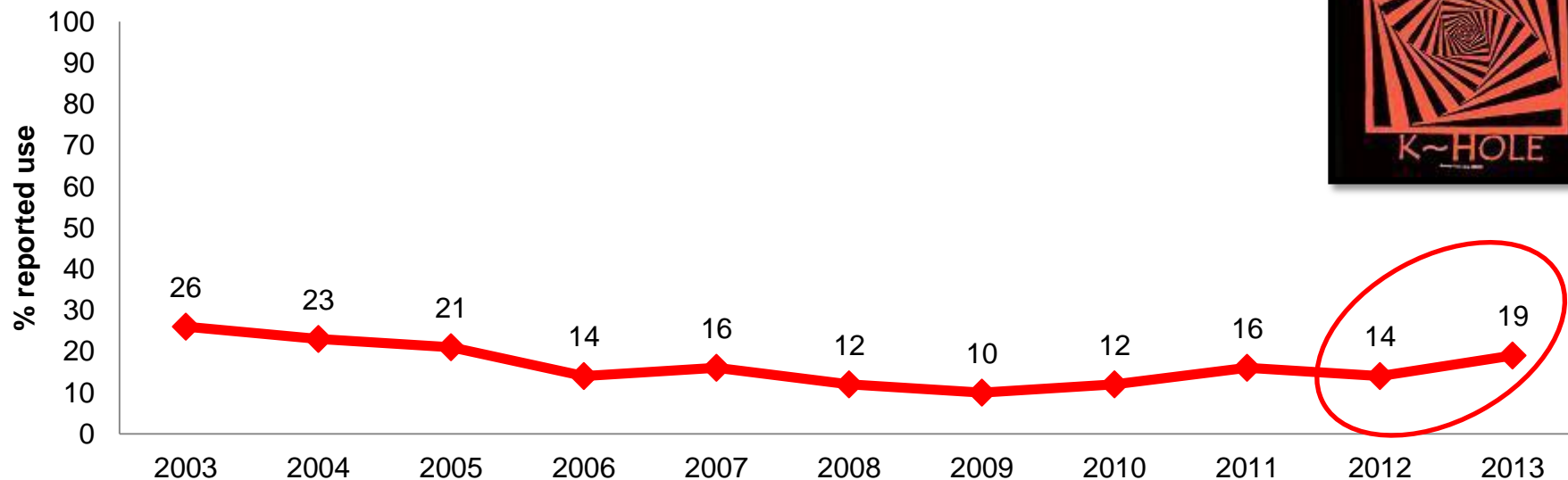
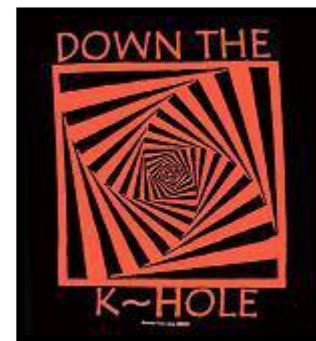
- Days of use is low (2 days)
- \$300 per gram national price (no change)
- 'Medium' purity (44%)
- Availability (58% easy to very easy)
- Cocaine seizures in Oceania highest (1.8 tons)

LSD recent use, 2003-2013



- Median days: LSD = 3 days (low)
- Purity: high (40%) ↓
- Availability: easy to very easy (67%)

Ketamine recent use, 2003-2013

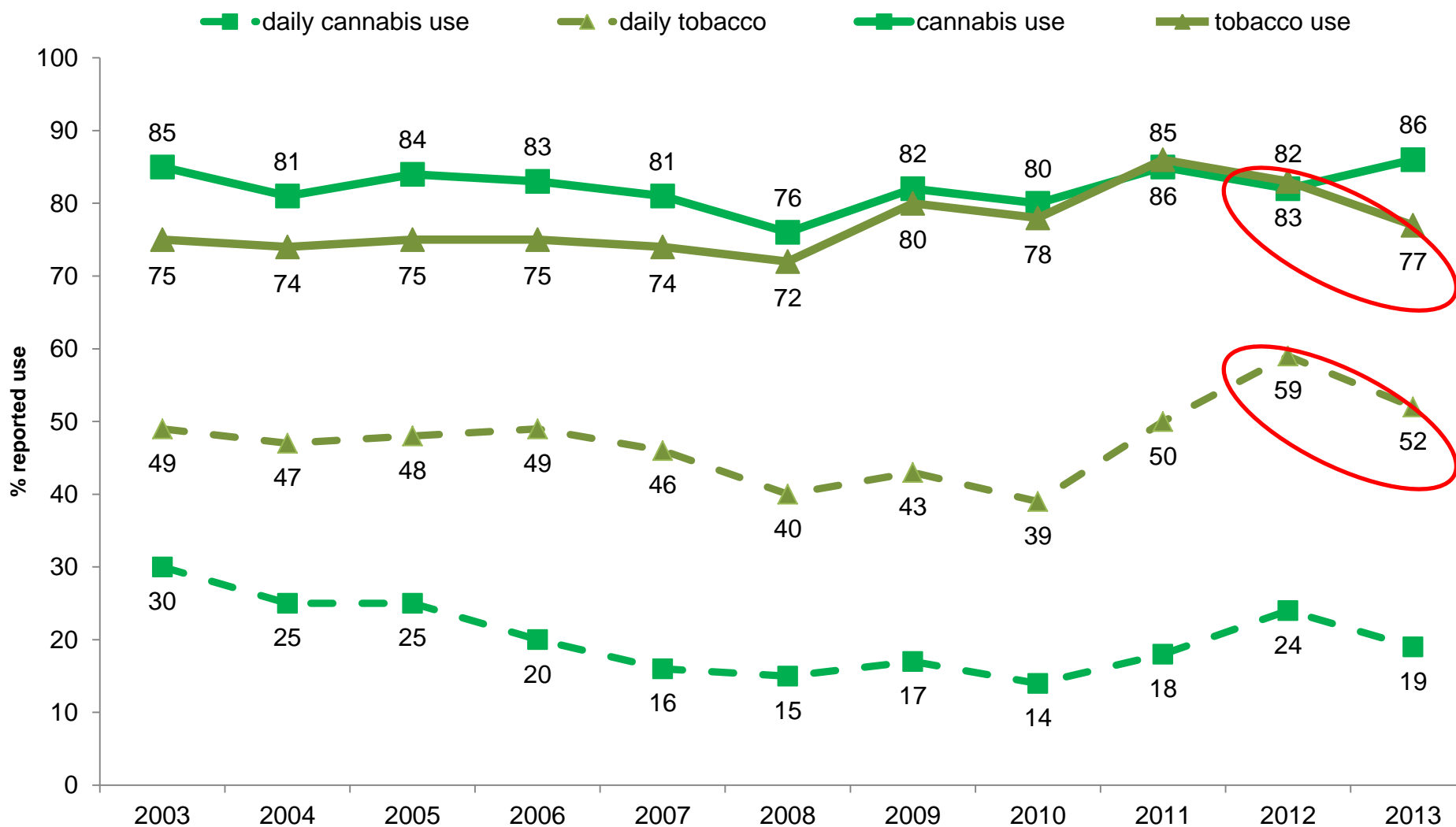


Source: EDRS interviews

- Use is mainly on the East coast of Australia
- Median days: Ketamine = 2 days (low)
- Purity: high (61%)
- Availability: very easy (5% in 2012 vs. 32% in 2013)



Cannabis and tobacco, 2003-2013



- Tobacco recent and daily use declined from 2012 to 2013

Source: EDRS interviews



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behaviours

Alcohol use:

recent use 97%

2x weekly,

34% zone 3+4 in AUDIT

Bingeing: 40%

70% using 4+ drugs in a binge

Overdoses

recent stimulant (18%)

recent depressant (13%)



Injecting- lifetime (13%) recently (7%)

Exposure to injecting:

Friends that inject: a few (50%),

Offered drugs to inject: (23%)

Considered injecting a drug: no (51%)

Reason for not injecting: not preferred route of administration, fear of needles

Maybe...curiosity, to have a stronger drug effect.

Help seeking behaviour



- 11% sought help for drug use
- Of those that did not, 14% thought about it but did not as they worked it out on their own, not a priority, don't want to stop drug use
- Majority (74%) did see services, mostly GPs, dentist and ED

Insight...

- One third reported risk problems and responsibility problems,
- A quarter reported social problems
- 5% reported legal problems



WHAT DOES IT ALL MEAN?

- # Research chemical NBOM-e linked to drug deaths of teenagers Henry Kwan, Nick Mitchell, Preston Bridge

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Acknowledgments & Contacts

Study participants

Agencies assisting with recruitment



Key experts

Agencies and individuals providing indicator data

Researchers and institutions across Australia

The NDARC team with their help with the handout and the conference

Current and previous national EDRS and IDRS coordinators

The Funders – Australian Government Department of Health & Ageing

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