



Results from the 2013 Illicit Drug Reporting System (IDRS)

Medicine

National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre

State Library of Victoria, Conference Centre
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Acknowledgements

Study participants

Agencies assisting with recruitment



Key experts

Agencies and individuals providing indicator data

Researchers and institutions across Australia

Funders - Australian Government under the Substance Misuse Prevention and Service Improvement Grants Fund

Overview

Drug use

- Participant characteristics
- Recent use
- Frequency of use

Price, Purity, Availability

- Heroin
- Methamphetamines
- Cocaine
- Cannabis
- Other drugs

Other issues

- Injecting risk behaviours
- Mental health
- Driving
- Crime

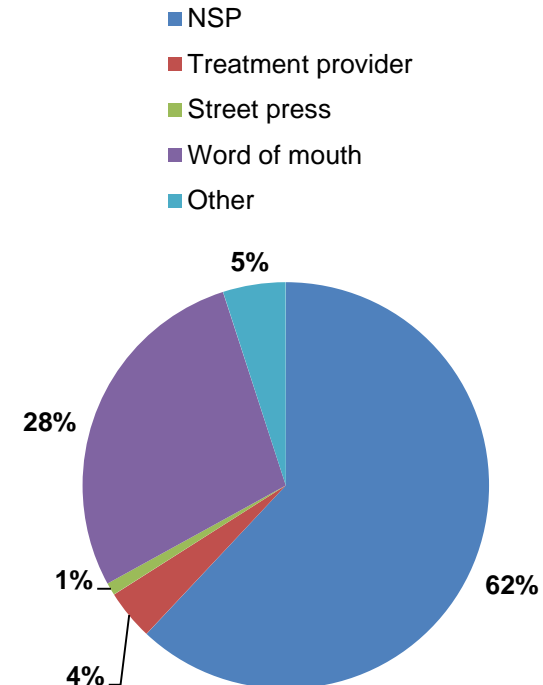
Key results for 2013



Participant characteristics

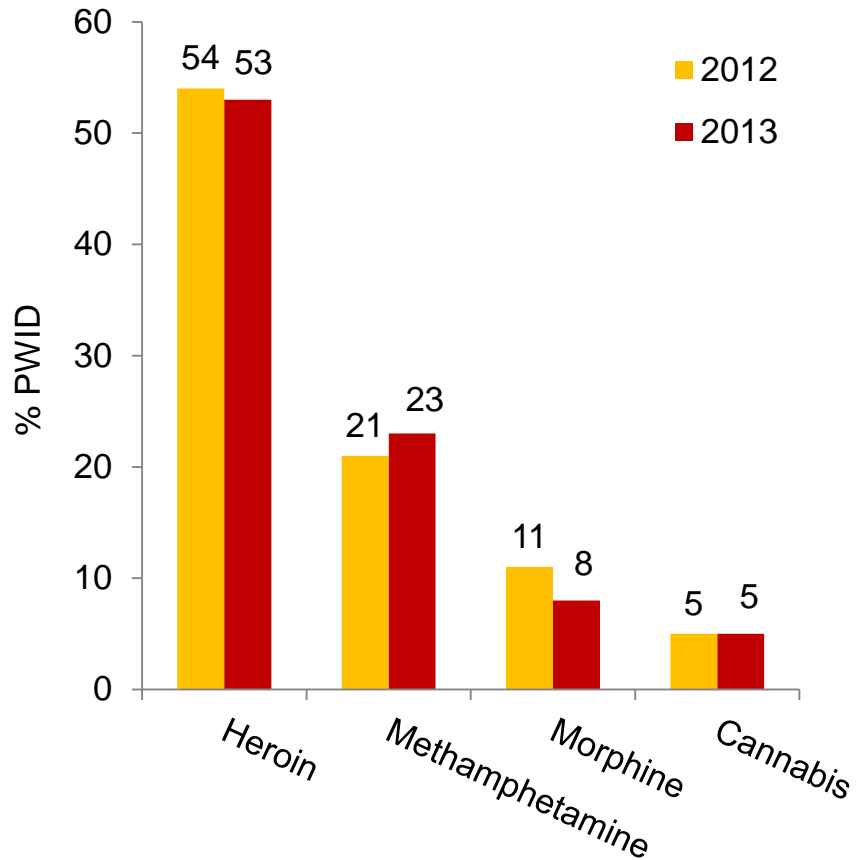
	2012 N=924	2013 N=887
Mean age (years)	39 (17-71)	40 (18-66)
Gender (% male)	66	64
Single (%)	58	53
Unemployed (%)	84	84
Currently in treatment (%)	44	47
Prison history (%)	54	56
Mean age first injected (years)	20	20

Participant recruitment

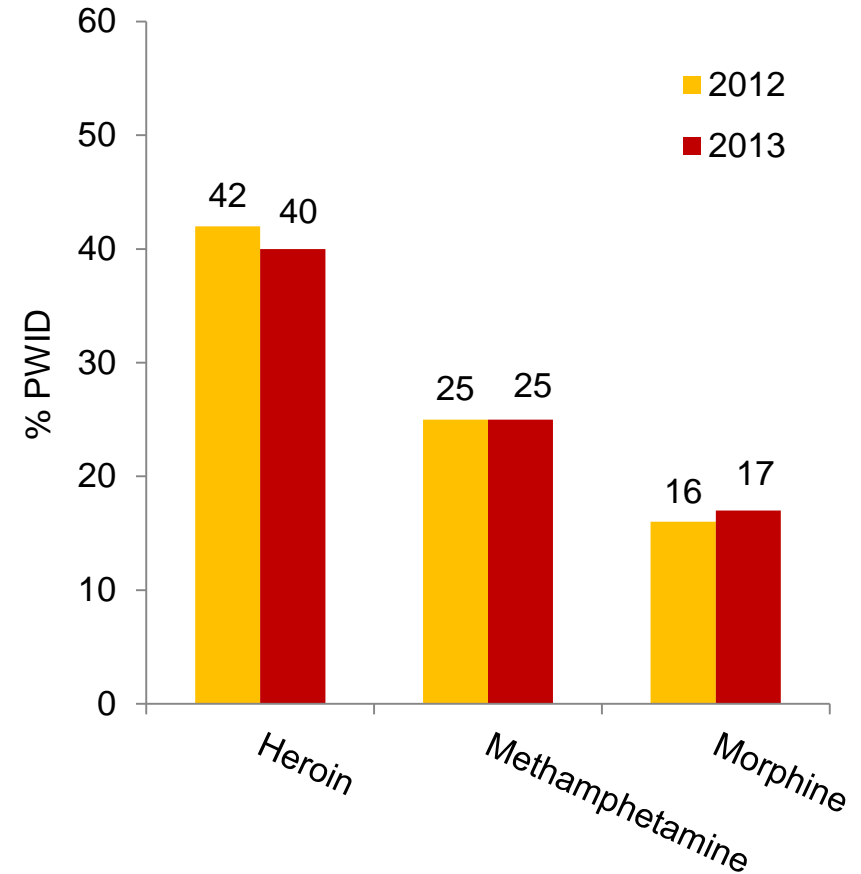


IDRS:

Drug of choice (%)



Drug injected most last month (%)



Heroin



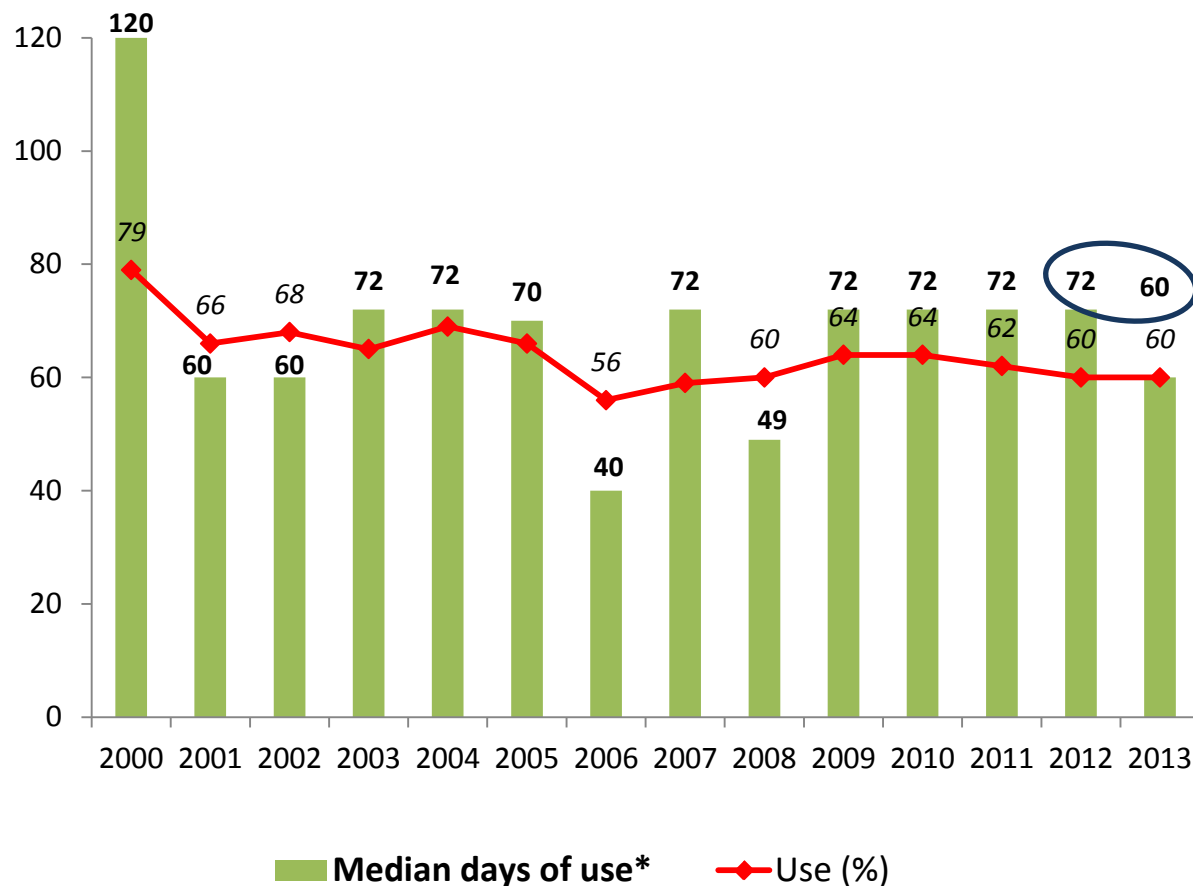
Heroin

*“Heroin **cut me off** from the rest of the **world**. My parents kicked me out. My friends and my brothers didn’t want to see me anymore. I was **all alone**.” —
Alice*

*“From the day I started using, I never stopped. Within one week I had gone from snorting heroin to shooting it. Within one month I was **addicted** and going through all my money. Within one year, I had **lost everything**.” —**Erin***

*“Drugs equal death. If you do nothing to get out, you end up dying. To be a drug addict is to be **imprisoned**.” —**John***

Recent heroin use and days of use (last six months), nationally, 2000-2013



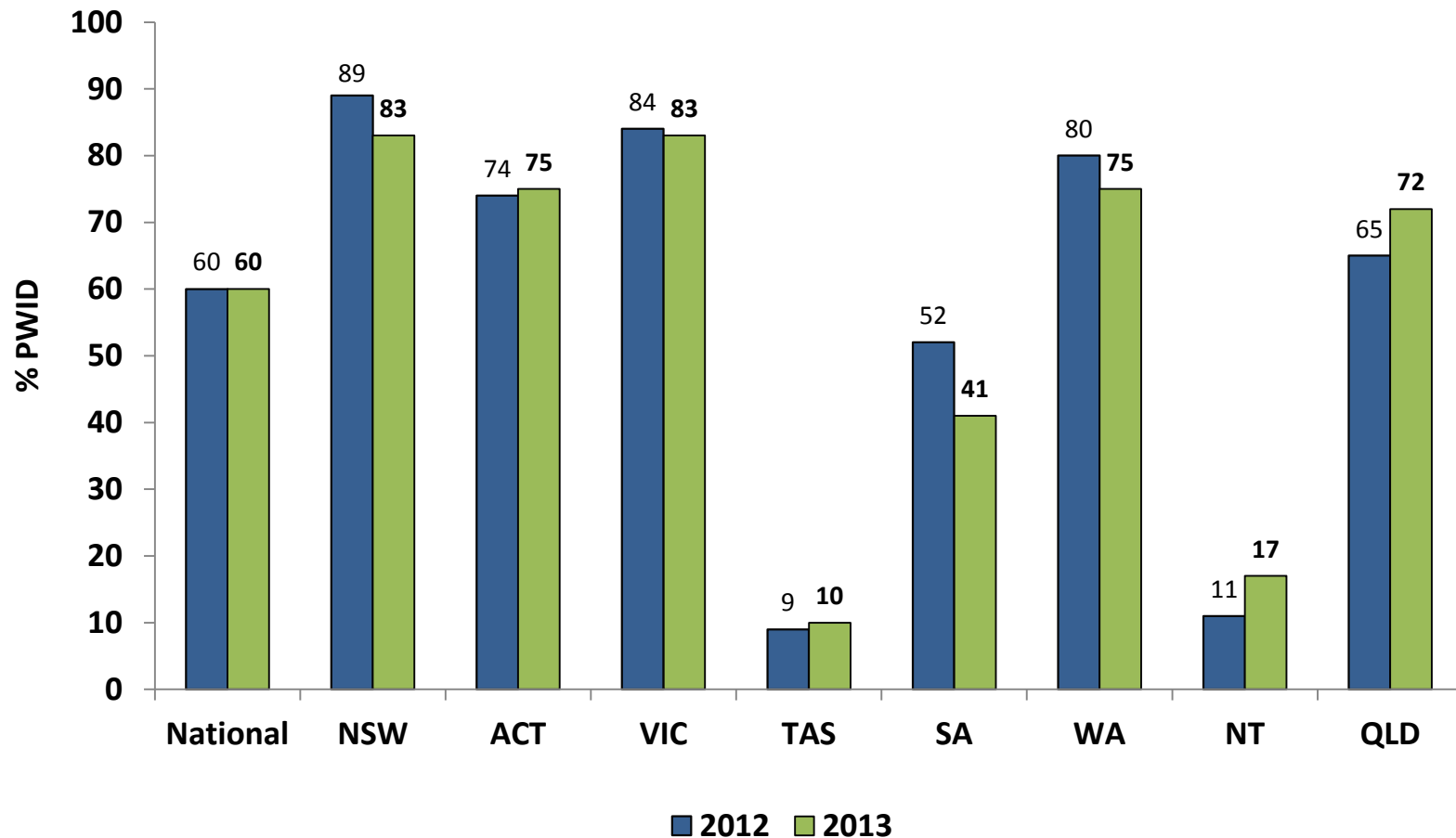
National Drug Strategy Household Survey

Heroin	2007	2010
Recent use (%)	0.2	0.2
Lifetime use (%)	1.6	1.4

No change between years

* among those who reported recent heroin use. Maximum no. of days = 180.

Recent heroin use by jurisdiction, 2012-2013



Heroin vs. non-heroin recent use

	Heroin N=527	Non-heroin N=357
Mean age (years)	41 (range 18-66)	40 (range 18-64)
Gender (% male)	66	62
Unemployed (%)	84	82
Single (%)	51	56
Currently in treatment (%)*	56	34
Prison history (%)*	61	49
Mean age first injected (years)*	19	21

* Significant difference between the groups

Forms of heroin used in the last six months

In 2011 – 88%

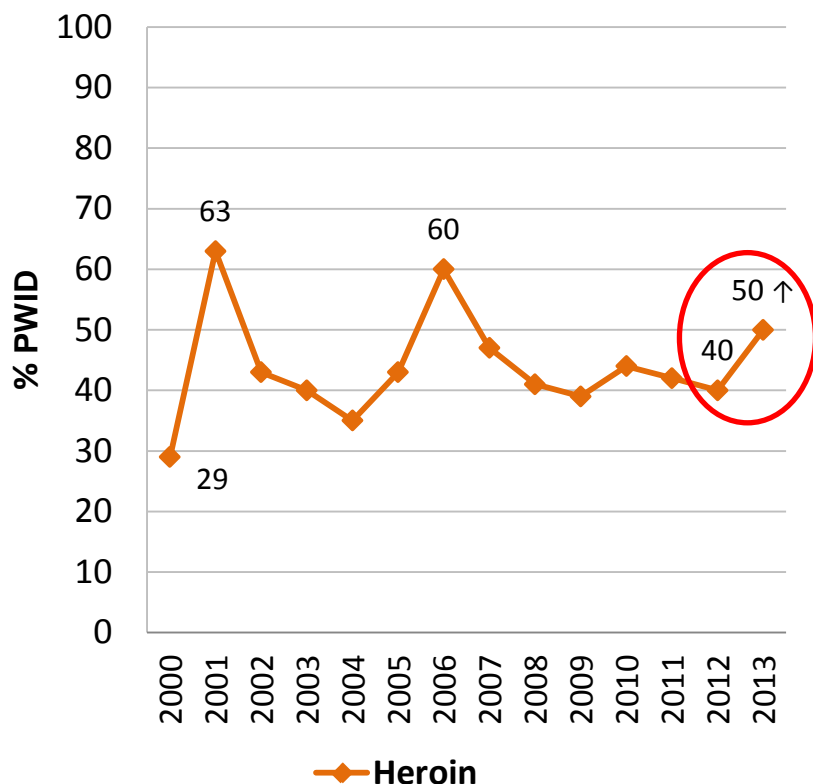
	2012	2013
Used last six months (%)	N=549	N=529
White/off white powder or rock	93	83↓
Brown powder or rock	48	51
Form most used last six months	N=534	N=525
White powder or rock	81	70↓
Brown powder or rock	16	25↑
Other colour or homebake	3	5

↓ Significant decrease between 2012 and 2013 ($p < 0.05$)

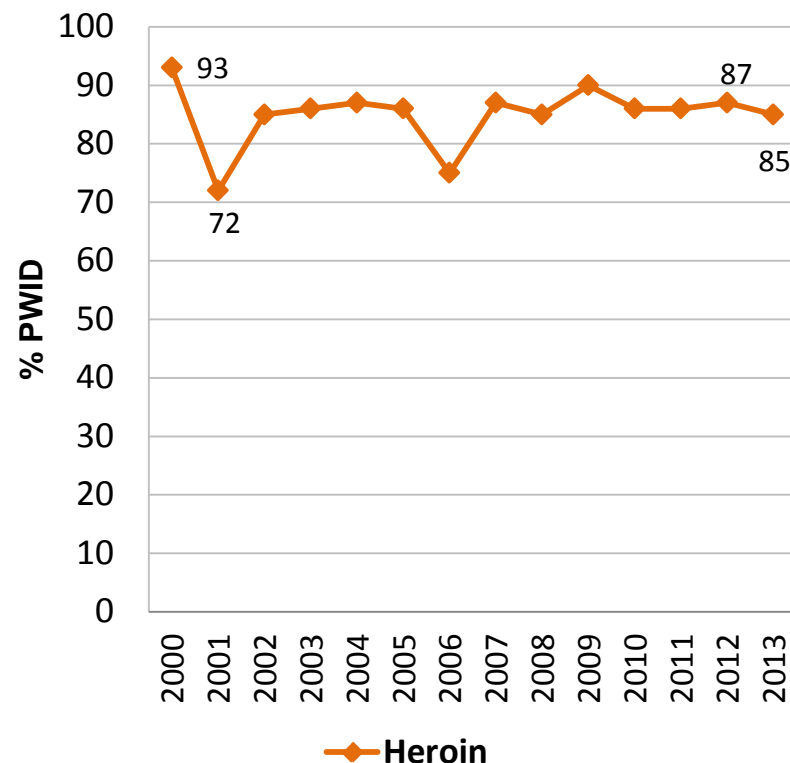
↑ Significant increase between 2012 and 2013 ($p < 0.05$)

Heroin – price, purity and availability

Low purity



Very easy or easy to obtain

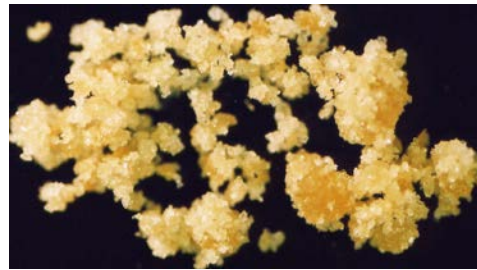


Median price - \$50 per cap and \$300 per gram

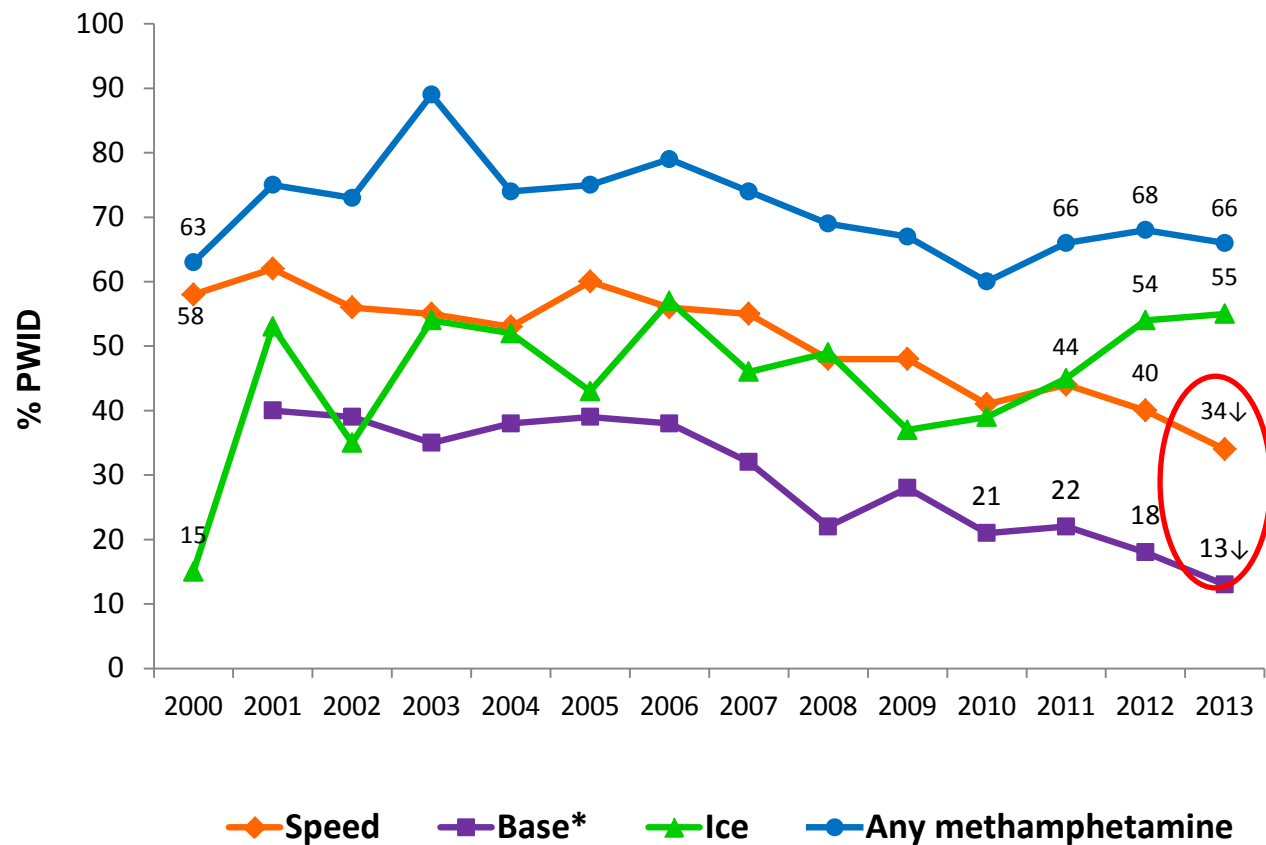
↑ Significant increase between 2012 and 2013 ($p < 0.05$)

Methamphetamine

Speed powder, base and ice/crystal



Recent methamphetamine use, nationally 2003-2013



National Drug Strategy Household Survey

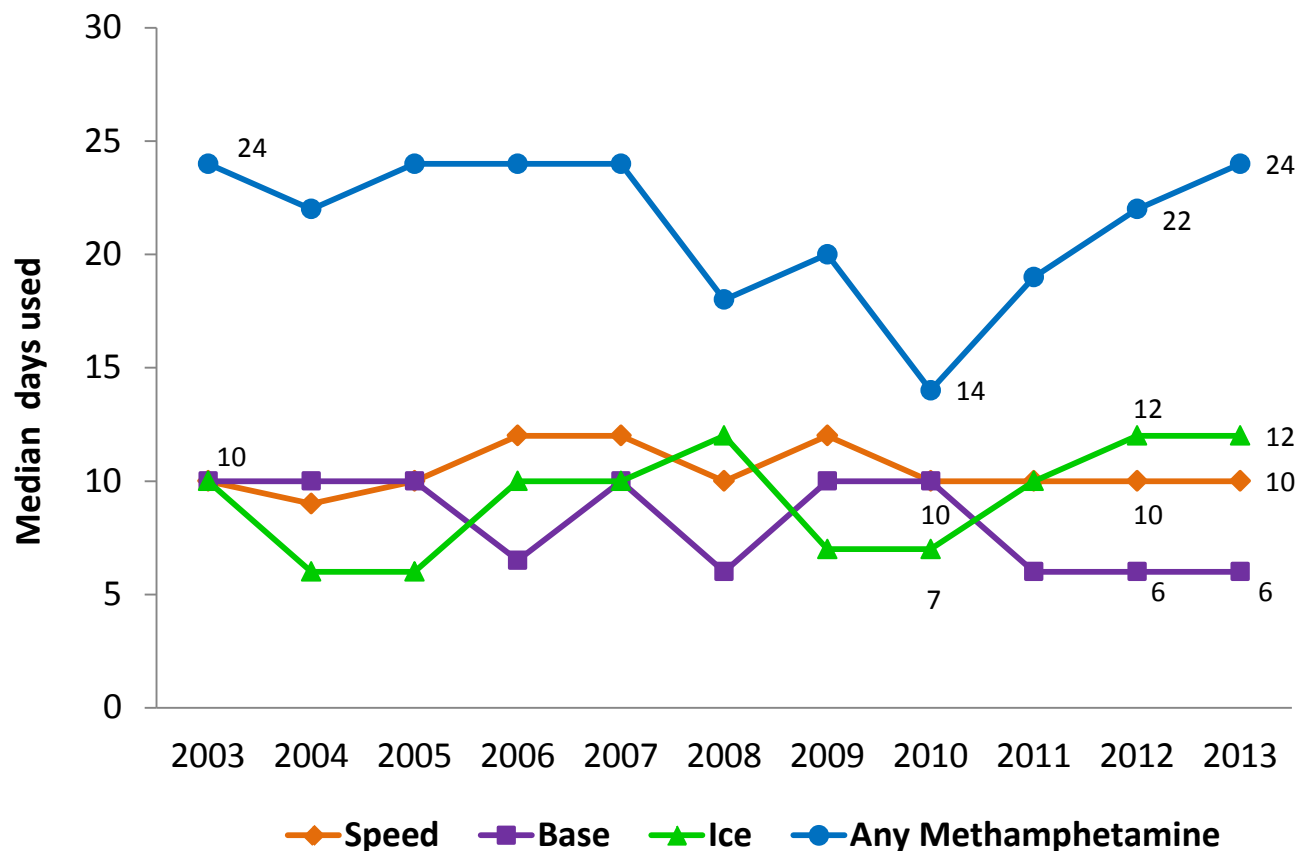
Any meth	2007	2010
Recent use (%)	2.3	2.1
Lifetime use (%)	6.3	7*

*significant ↑ from 2007

↓ Significant decrease between 2012 and 2013 ($p < 0.05$)

* Base asked separately from 2001 onwards

Methamphetamine median days of use (last six months), 2003-2013

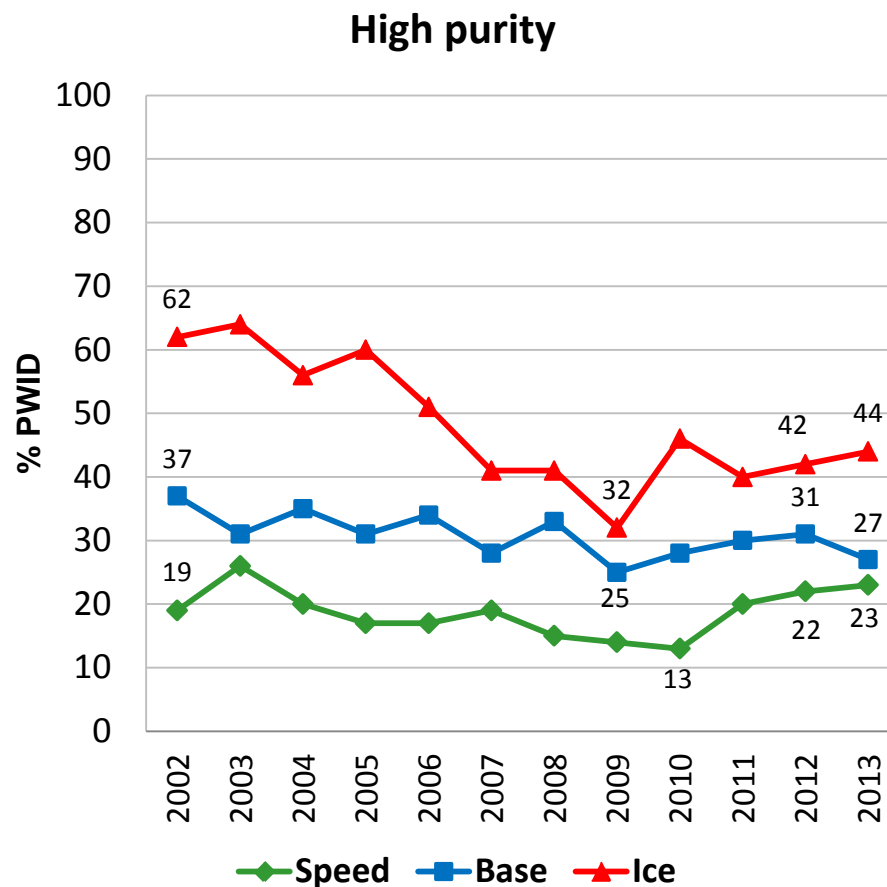


"I started using crystal meth when I was in high school. Before my first semester of uni was up, meth became such a big problem that I had to drop out. I spent all my time either doing meth, or trying to get it." **Ann Maree**

Note: Maximum days = 180

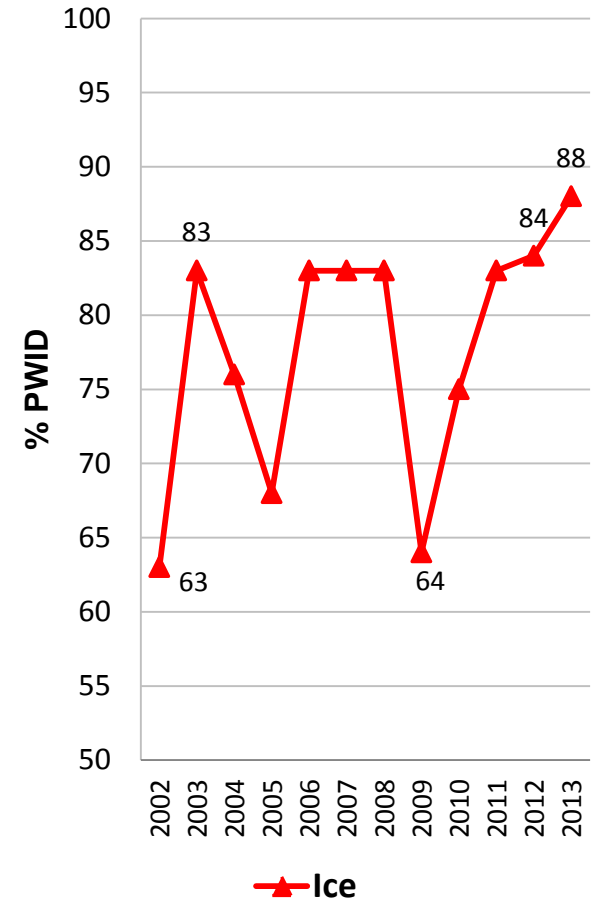
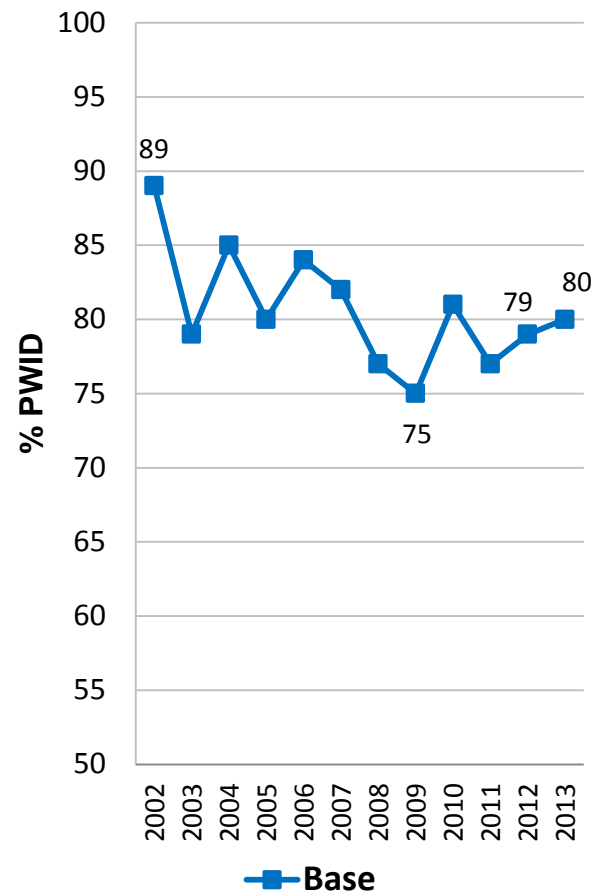
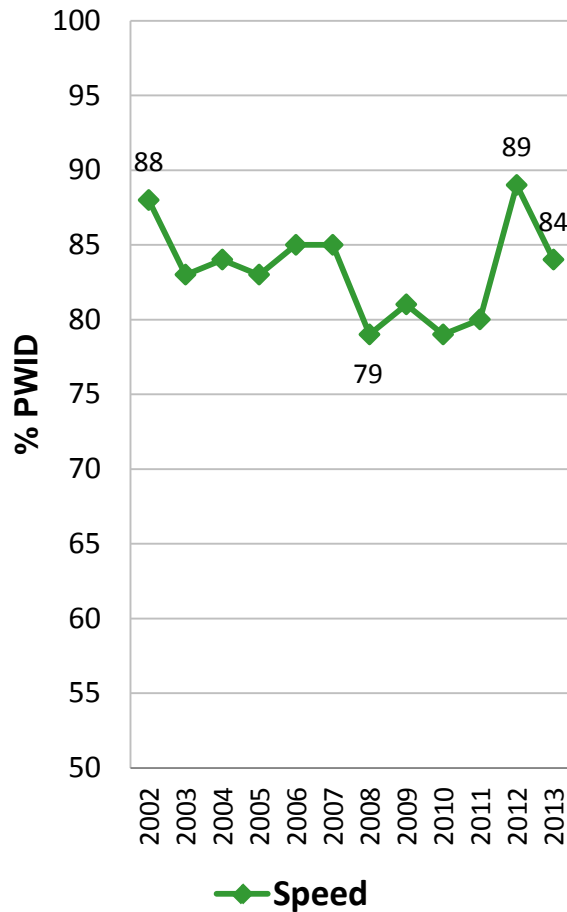
^ small numbers commenting (n<10); interpret with caution

Methamphetamine – price and purity levels



Note: among those who commented

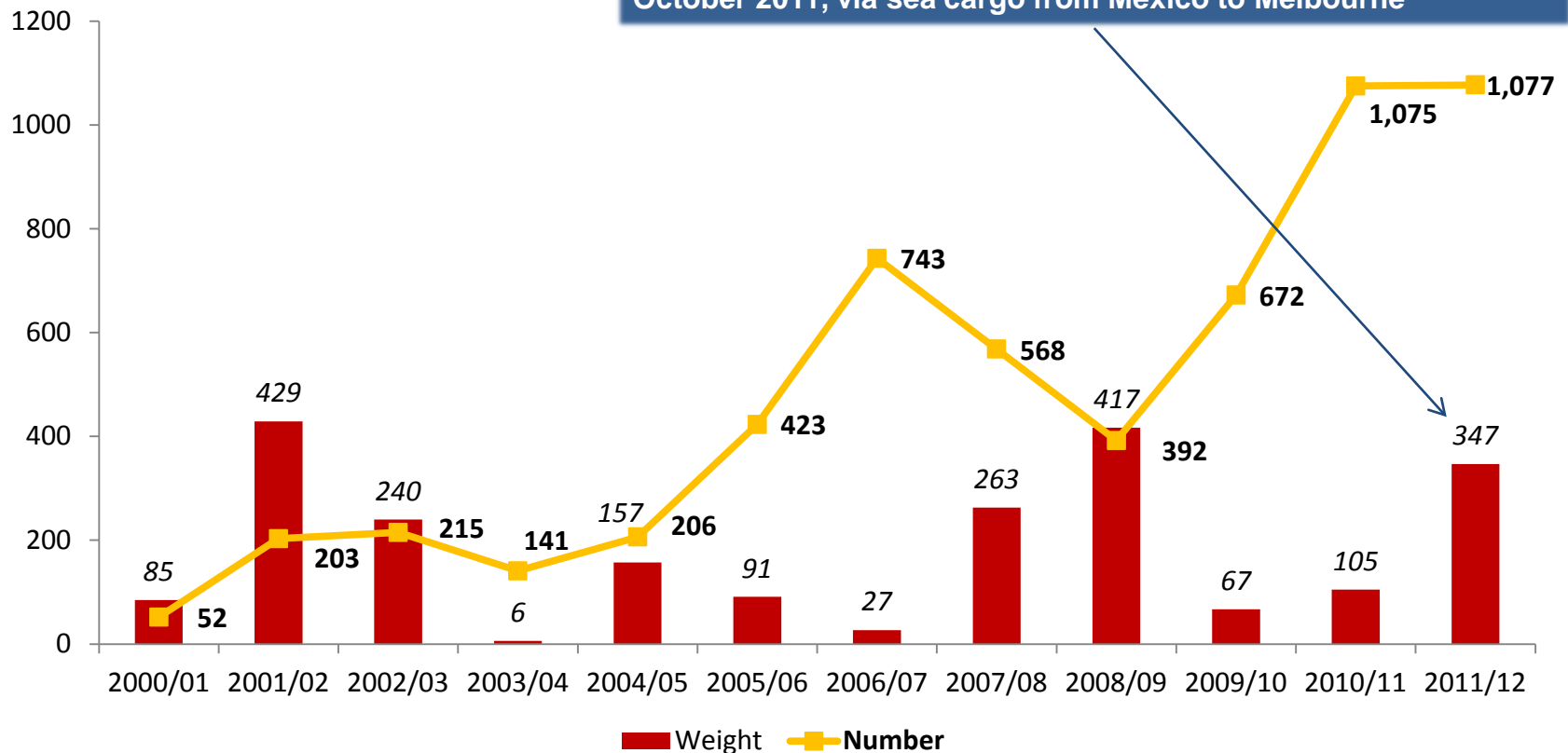
Methamphetamine availability – very easy/easy



Note: among those who commented

Indicator data – weight and number of detections of Amphetamine Type Substances at the Australian border

Note: 129.7 kilograms of liquid methylamphetamine detected October 2011, via sea cargo from Mexico to Melbourne



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Media Release: Joint investigation results in seizure of 365 litres of liquid containing Methamphetamine

Release Date: **Wednesday, April 10 2013, 03:02 PM**

This is a joint media release with the Australian Crime Commission, Australian Customs and Border Protection Service and Victoria Police.

A joint law enforcement operation has resulted in the arrest of two people and seizure of 365 litres of liquid containing methamphetamine stored in bottles of carpet stain cleaner.

The investigation, involving the Australian Federal Police (AFP), Australian Crime Commission (ACC), Australian Customs and Border Protection Service and Victoria Police, began on 6 April 2013.

Throughout the operation several key international law enforcement partners also provided assistance.

In March, Customs and Border Protection officers targeted a shipping container for examination. In April, the ACC provided further intelligence which indicated the container was high risk.

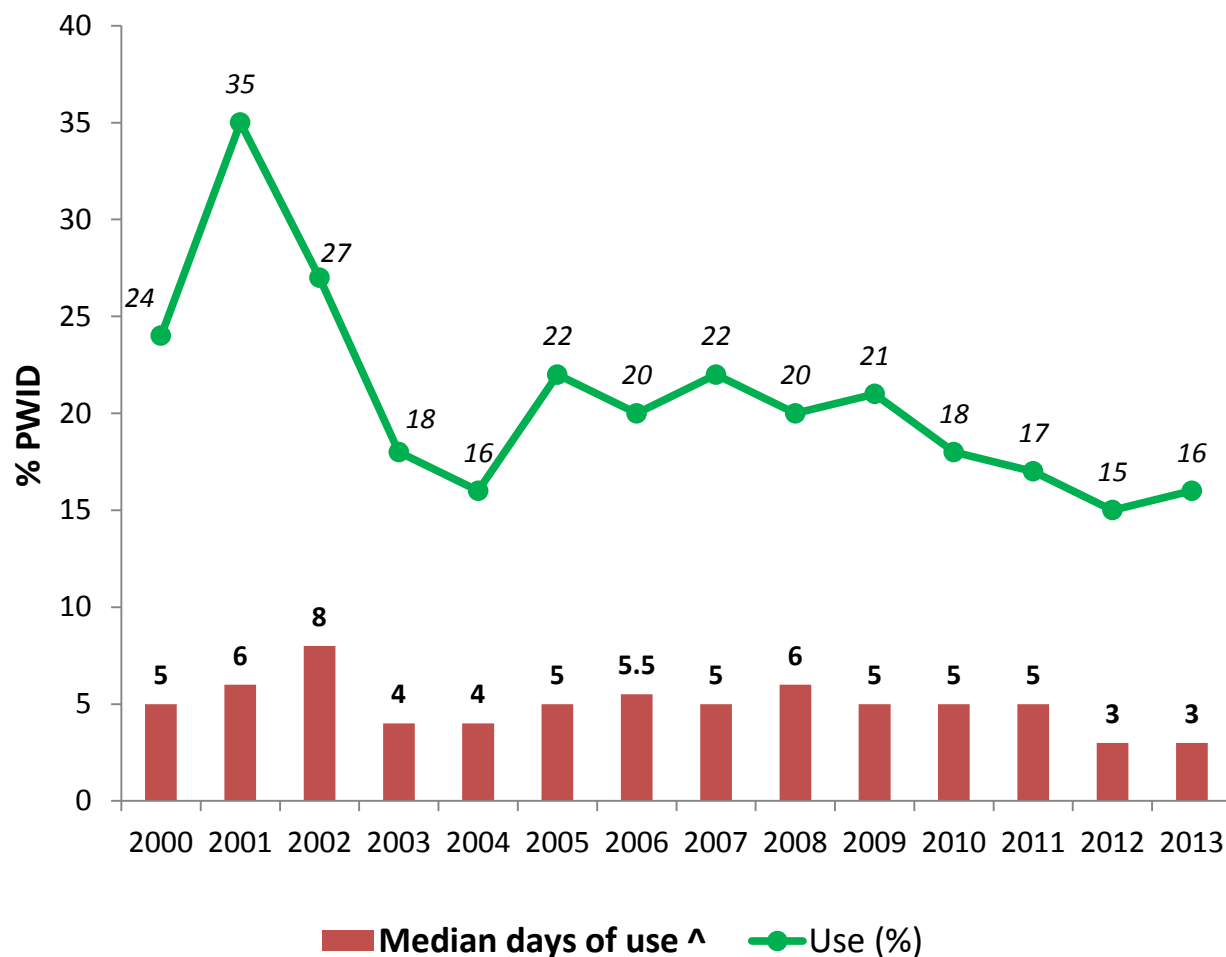
**UNSW**
AUSTRALIA

Cocaine



Because of NSW's high population and how far cocaine has to travel, the majority of cocaine use occurs in NSW and the east coast.

Recent cocaine use and days of use (last six months), nationally, 2000-2013



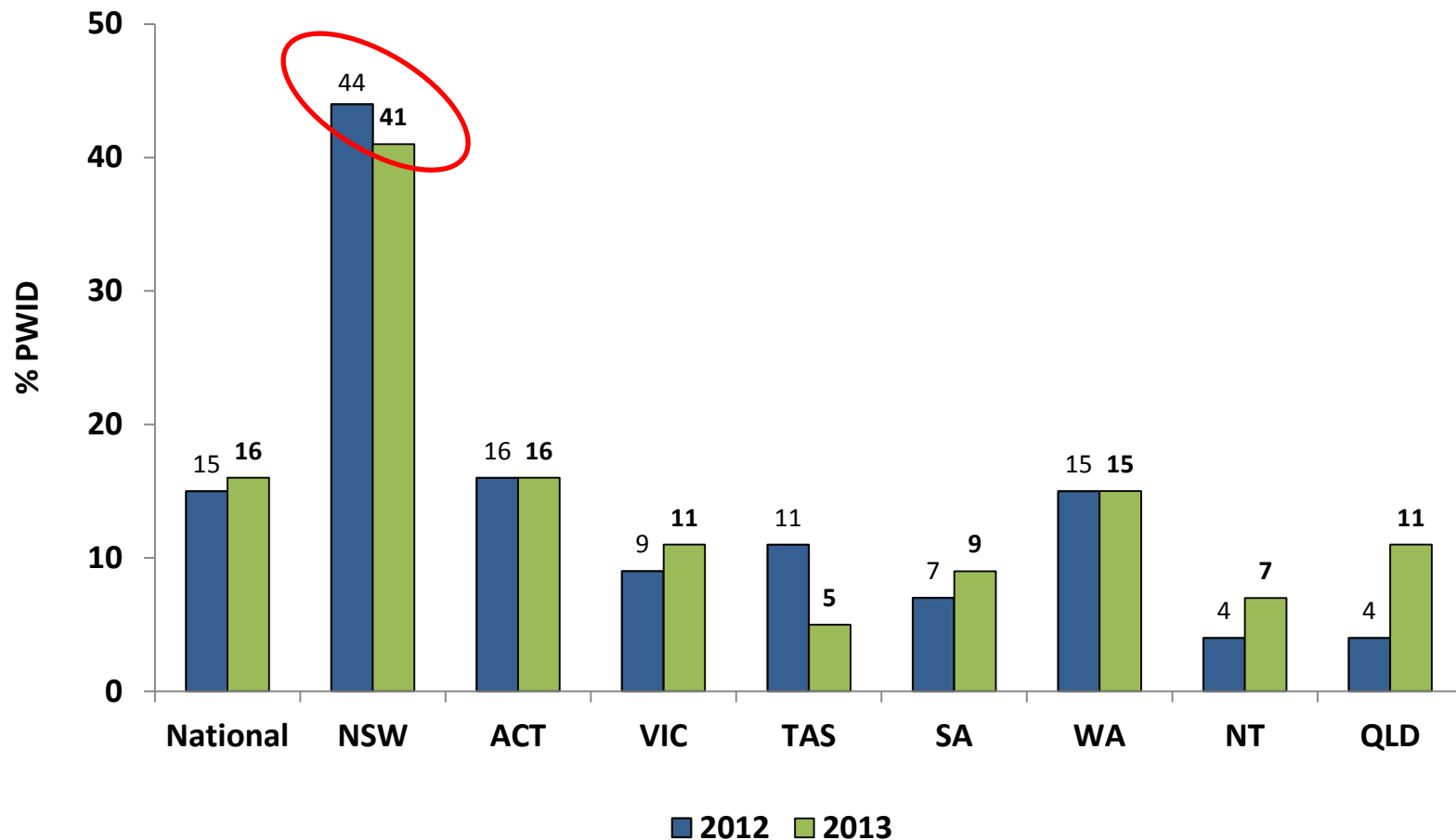
National Drug Strategy Household Survey

Cocaine	2007	2010
Recent use (%)	1.6	2.1*
Lifetime use (%)	5.9	7.3*

*significant ↑ from 2007

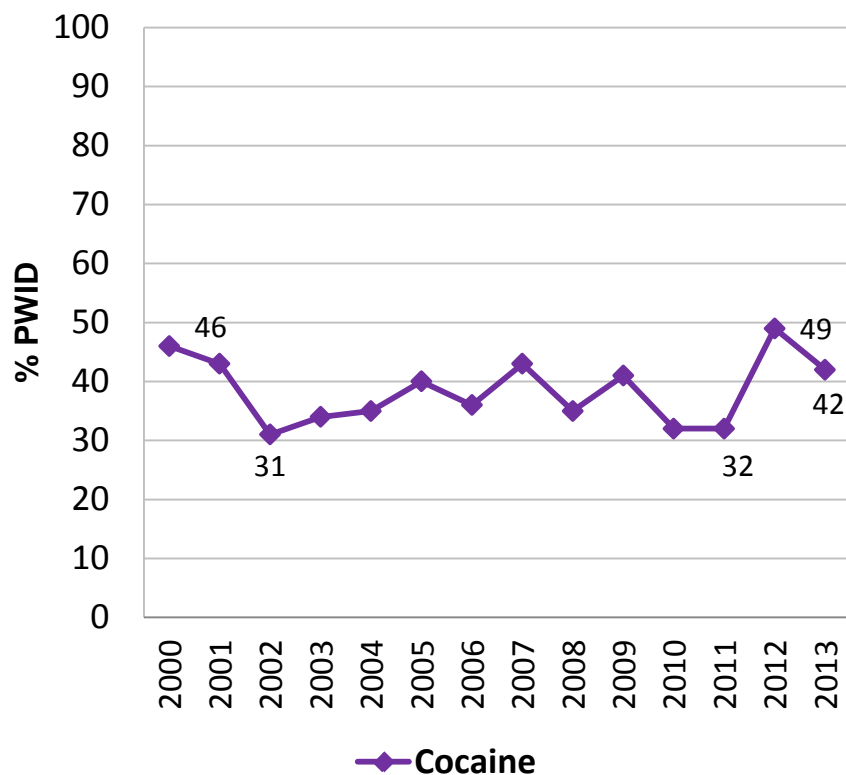
^ among those who reported recent cocaine use. Maximum no. of days = 180.

Recent cocaine use by jurisdiction, 2011-2013

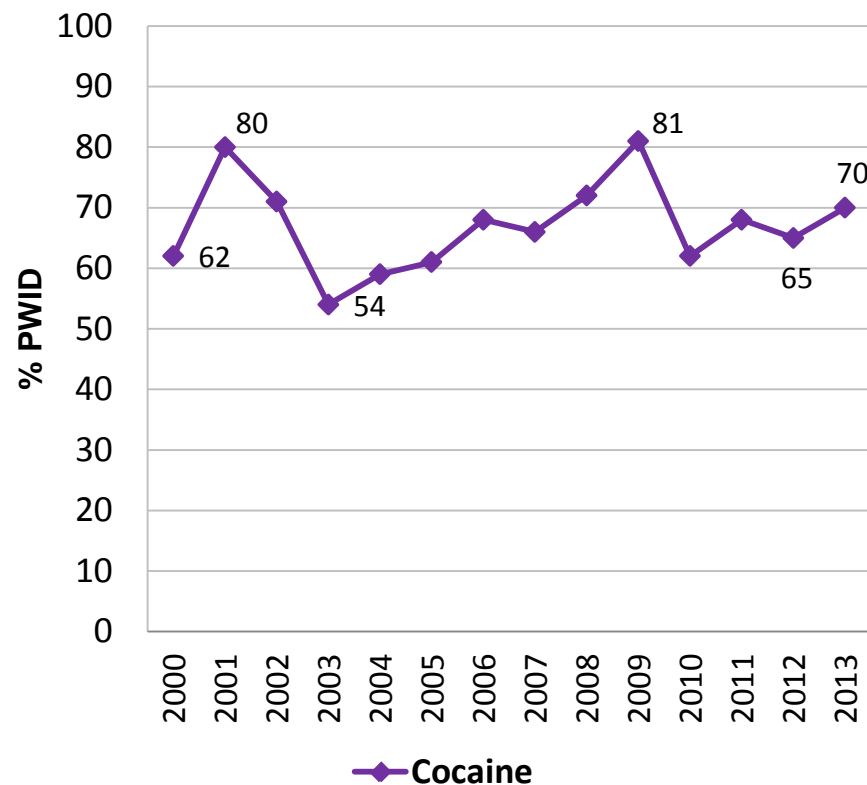


Cocaine – price, purity and availability

Medium purity



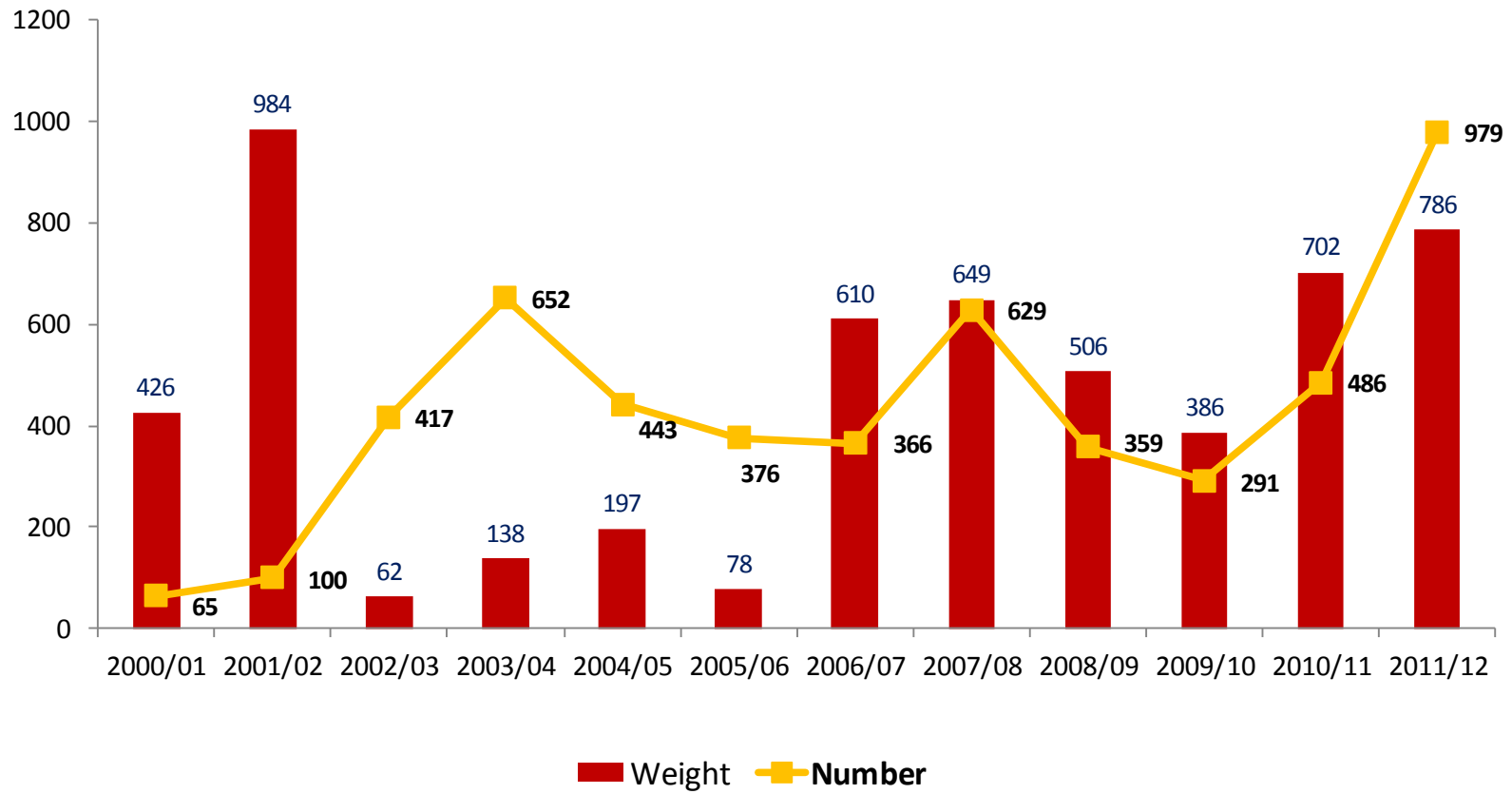
Very easy or easy to obtain



Median price - \$50 per cap and \$325 per gram

Note: small numbers commenting

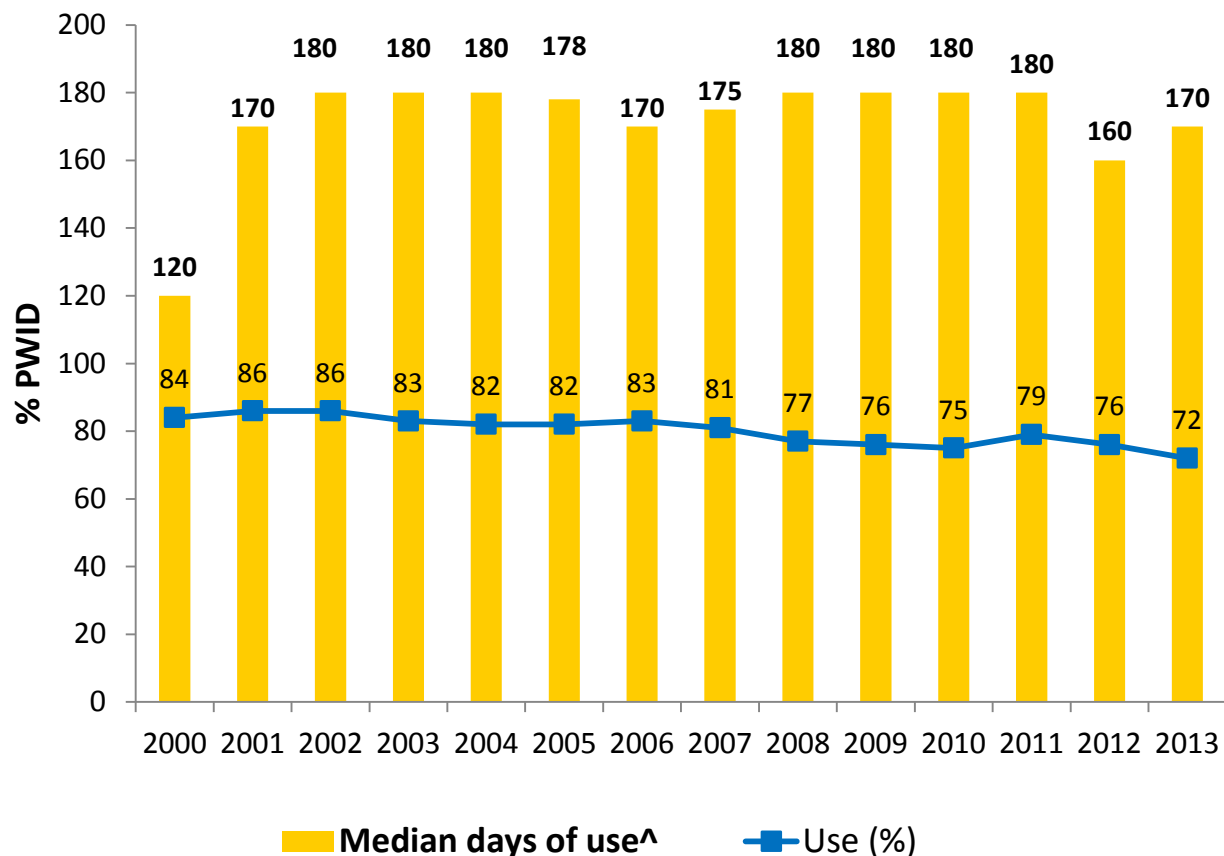
Indicator data – weight and number of detections of cocaine made at the Australian border



Cannabis



Recent cannabis use and days of use (last six months), nationally, 2000-2013



National Drug Strategy Household Survey

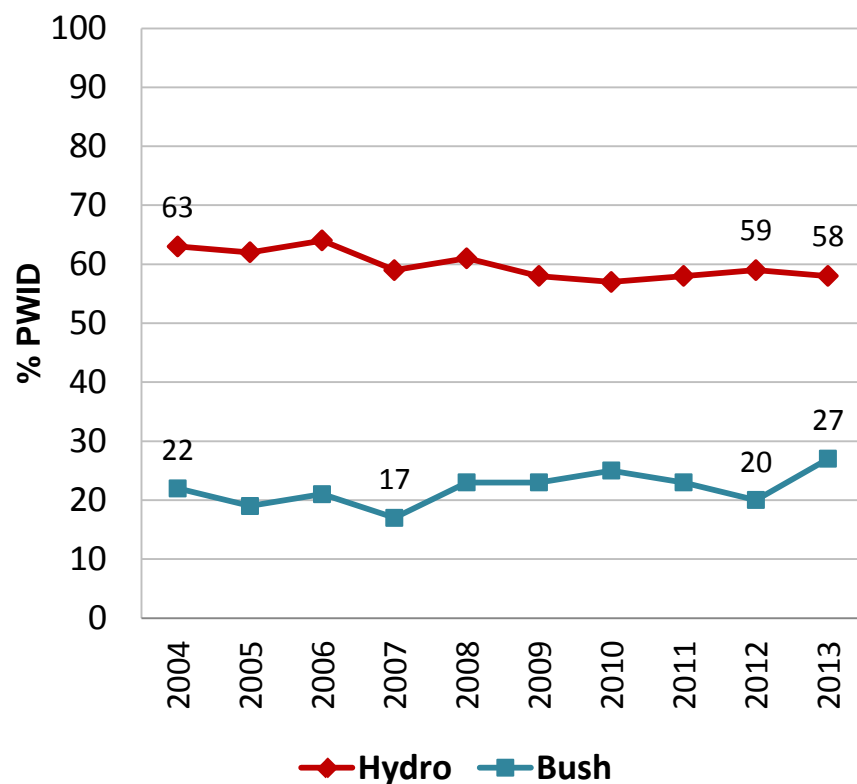
Cannabis	2007	2010
Recent use (%)	9.1	10.3*
Lifetime use (%)	33.5	35.4*

*significant ↑ from 2007

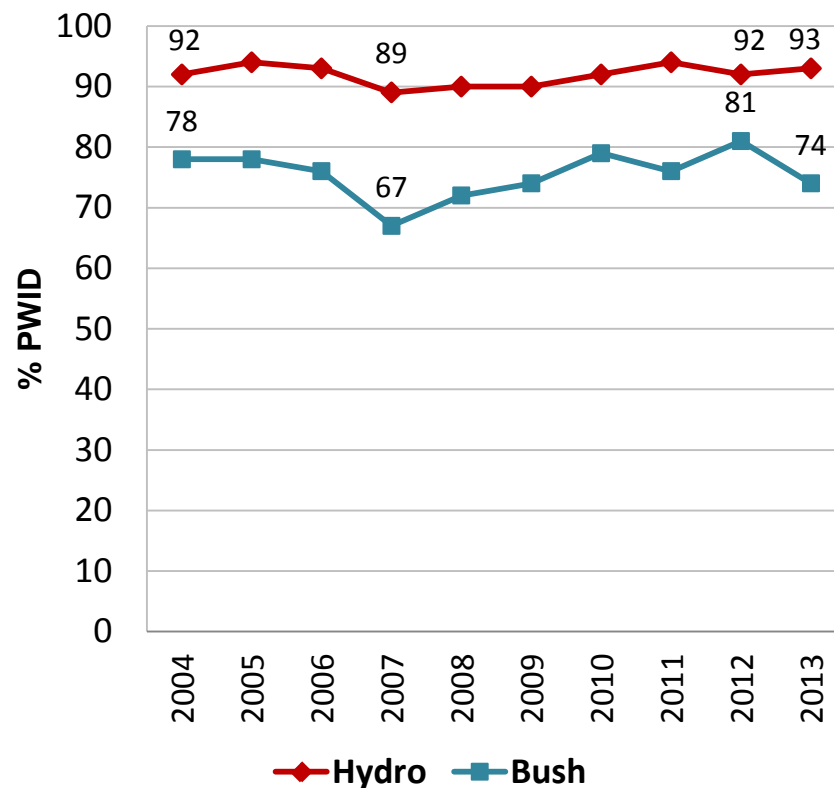
^ among those who reported recent cannabis use. Maximum no. of days = 180.

Cannabis – price, potency and availability

High potency



Very easy or easy to obtain



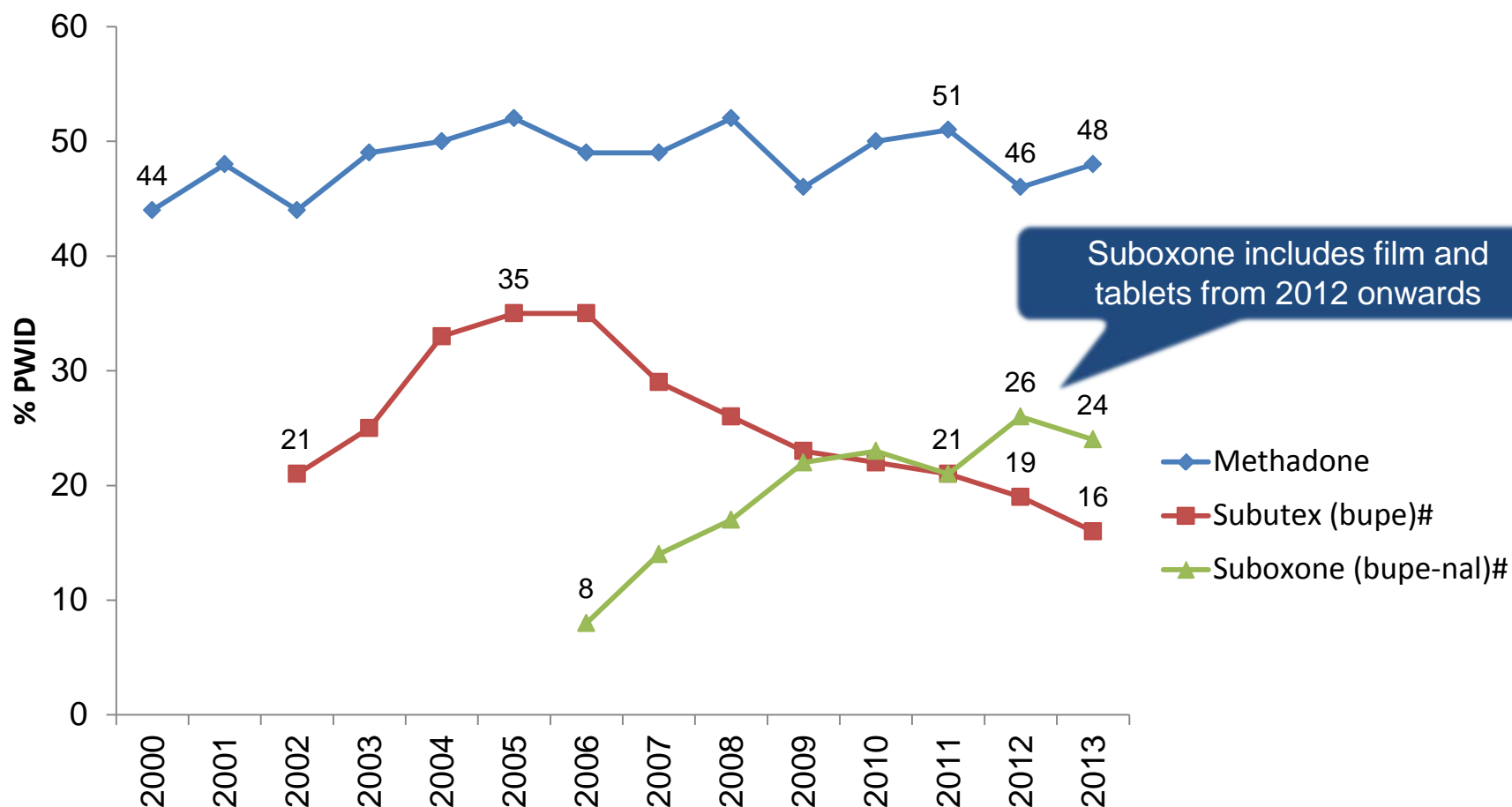
Hydro - \$20 per gram and \$300 per ounce
Bush - \$20 per gram and \$240 per ounce

Note: small numbers commenting

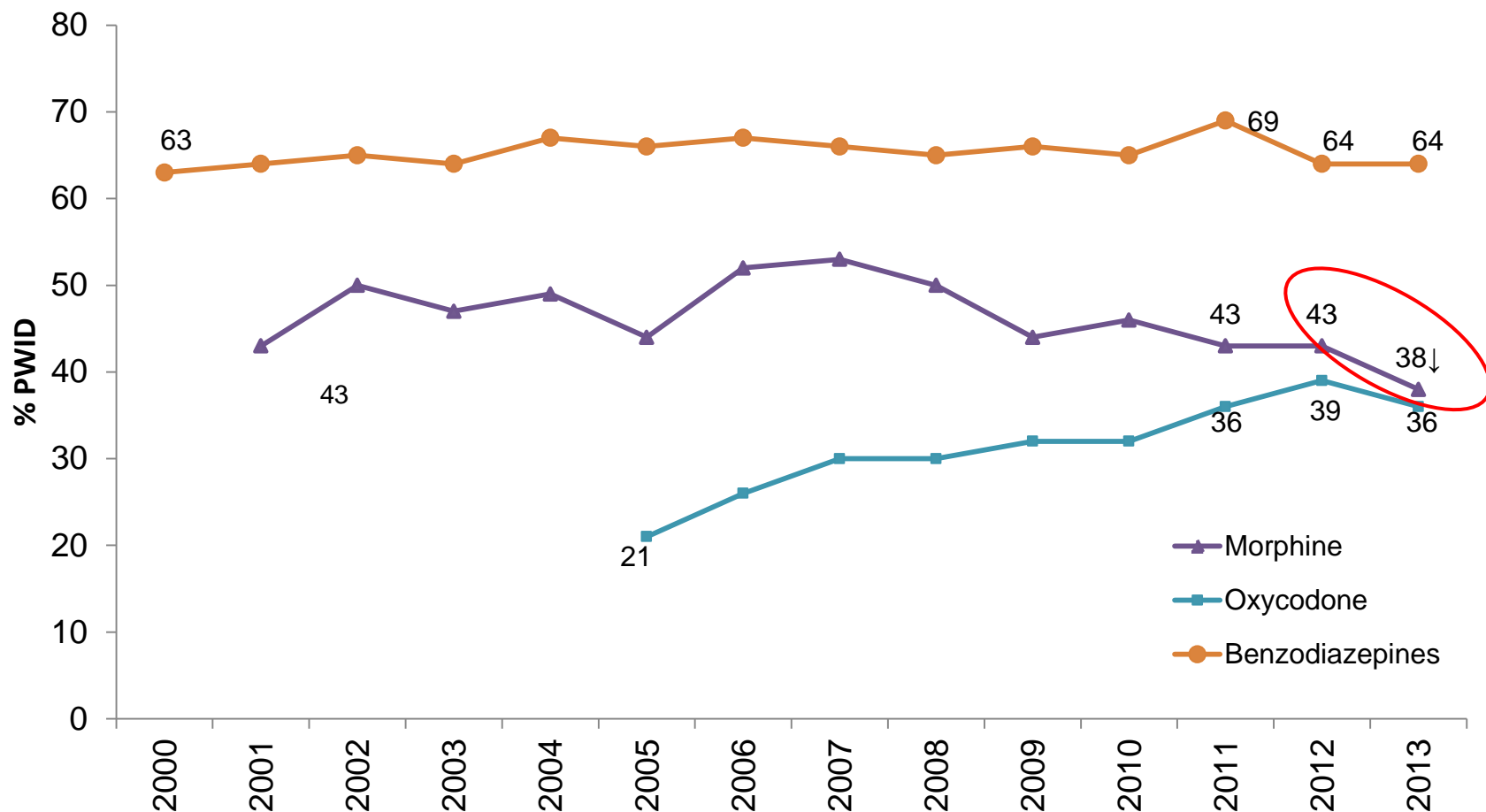
Other drugs



Recent use of other opioids, 2000-2013 (includes licit Opioid Substitution Therapy)



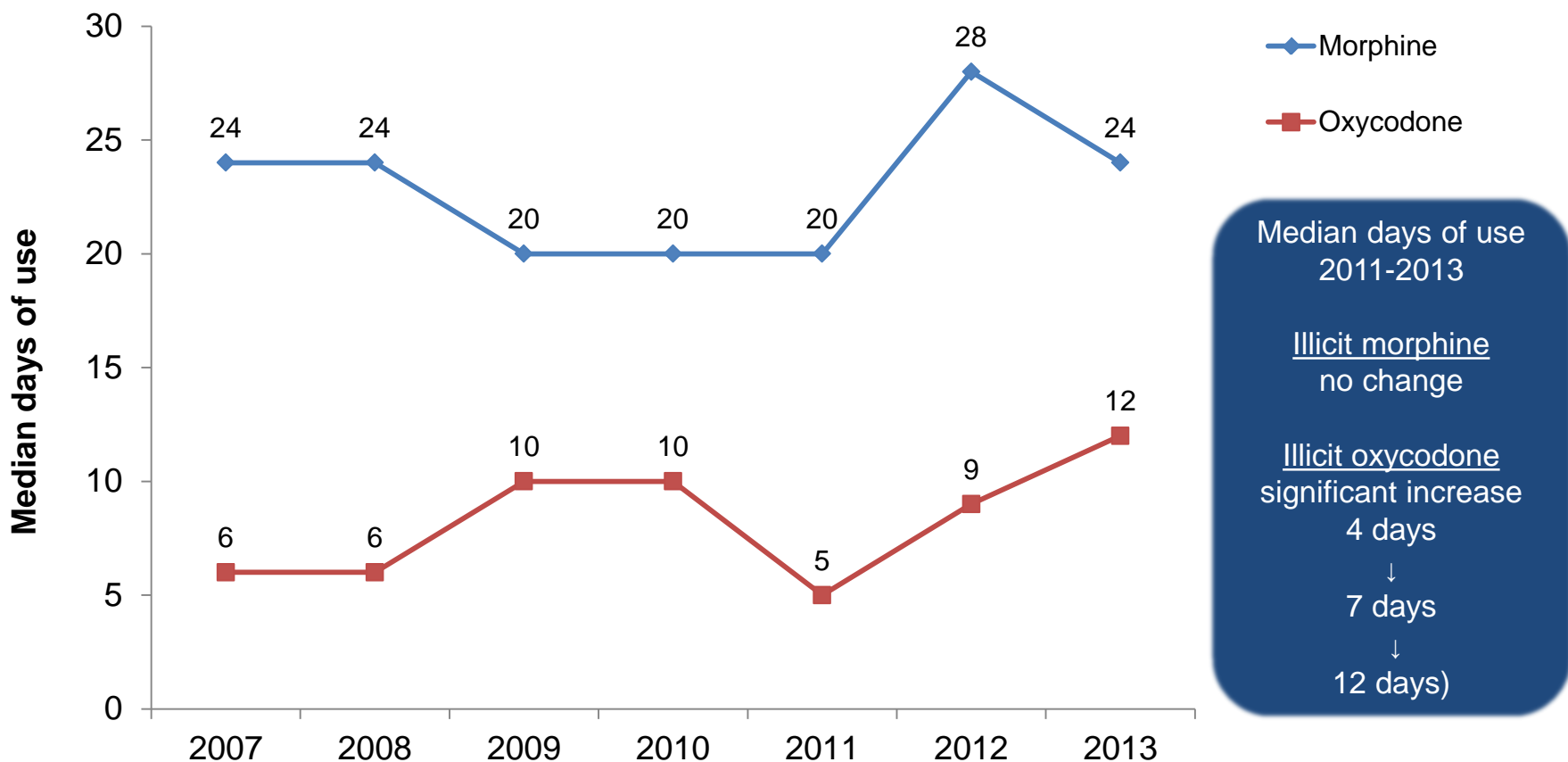
Recent use of morphine, oxycodone and benzodiazepines, 2000-2013



↓ significant decreased between 2012 and 2013 ($p < 0.05$)

Note: Data collection started in 2001 for morphine and 2005 for oxycodone

Medians day of use for morphine and oxycodone, 2007-2013



Note: includes licit and illicit morphine and oxycodone. Maximum no. of days = 180.

Use of Synthetic Cannabis and Emerging Psychoactive Substances (EPS), 2013

	National N=887	NSW n=151	ACT n=100	VIC n=150	TAS n=107	SA n=100	WA n=88	NT n=91	QLD n=100
Ever used (%)									
Synthetic Cannabis EPS	14 5	31 3	6 3	6 0	3 19	4 6	25 1	18 7	16 6
Recent use in last six months (%)									
Synthetic Cannabis EPS	9 4	23 1	5 0	5 0	3 17	4 3	16 0	8 4	7 4

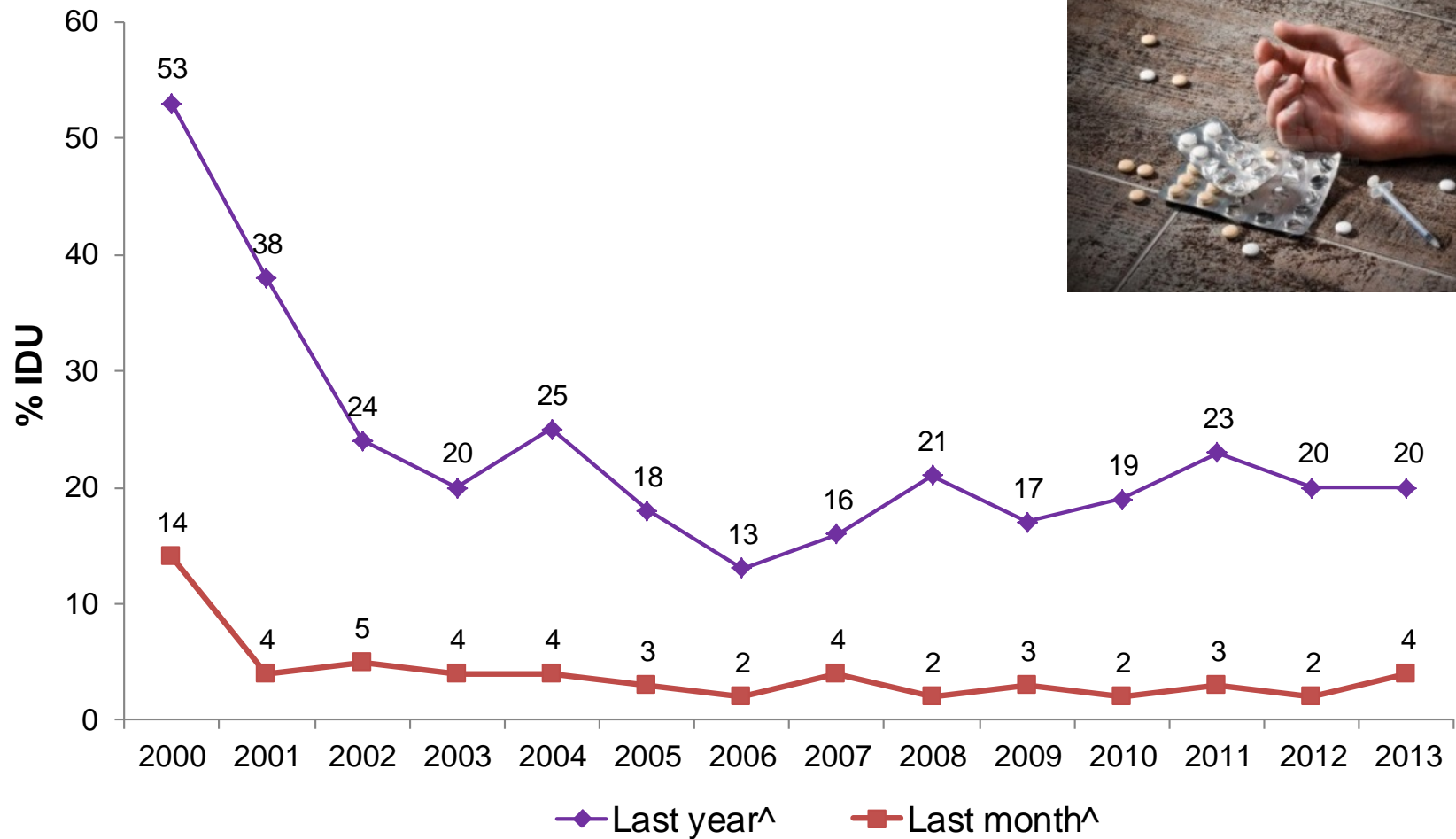
Alcohol and Tobacco use and frequency, 2013

(%)	National		NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
	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 recently used										
Alcohol	24	24	24	24	48	12	24	15	90	6
Tobacco	180	180	180	180	180	180	180	180	180	180

Risk behaviours and criminal activity



Heroin overdose: last year and month



^ among those who had ever overdosed on heroin

Injecting risk behaviour, 2012-2013 (in the last month)

In 2011:
Lent a needle - 16%
Re-used own needle - 49%
Re-used injecting equipment - 58%

	2012	2013
Borrowed a needle (%)	7	7
Lent a needle (%)	14	11↓
Shared equipment (excludes needles) (%)	25	24
Re-used own needle(%)	47	40↓
Re-used injecting equipment (excludes needles) (%)	62	56↓

↓ Significant decrease between 2012 and 2013 ($p < 0.05$)

Injection-related problems, 2012-2013 (in the last month)

	2012	2013
Infection/abscess (%)	8	5
Dirty hit (%)	20	11↓
Scarring/bruising (%)	39	37
Difficulty injecting(%)	34	33
Thrombosis (%)	5	3
Overdose (%)	5	2

**12% nationally had trouble accessing
needles in the last month**

↓ Significant decrease between 2012 and 2013 ($p < 0.05$)

Self-reported mental health problems (last 6mths), 2012-2013

Back to 2011 – 71%

	2012	2013
Self-reported mental health problem (%)	43	44
Problem reported:	N=393	N=388
Depression (%)	70	66
Anxiety (%)	52	46
Manic-depression (%)	12	10
Schizophrenia (%)	11	15
Drug Induced Psychosis (%)	7	4
Attended a health professional for self-reported mental health problem (%)	58	74↑

↑ Significant decrease between 2012 and 2013 ($p < 0.05$)

Driving risk behaviours, 2012-2013

	2012	2013
Driven in the last six months (%)	44 (N=409)	42 (N=370)
Driven under the influence of alcohol last six months (%)	20	18
Driven while taking an illicit drug (%)	77	77
Drugs used last month (%)	N=313	N=282
Heroin	39	32
Cannabis	28	26
Speed	10	9
Base	3	2
Crystal/Ice	10	14
Methadone	11	9
Morphine	17	17
Benzodiazepines	10	7

Criminal activity, 2012-2013

Crime in the last month:	2012	2013
Drug dealing (%)	24	23
Property (%)	18	18
Fraud (%)	3	2
Violence (%)	3	3
Any Crime (%)	37	36
Arrested in the last 12 months (%)	33	32

IDRS: Summary

- Heroin continues to be the drug of choice
- Recent heroin use was stable, however frequency of use decreased (significant)
- Recent speed powder and base use decreased (significant) while ice/crystal use remained stable
- Cocaine use was greatest in NSW. Frequency of use continued to be low nationally and in NSW
- Cannabis use remained stable
- Other pharmaceuticals continued to be diverted and injected –
oxycodone frequency ↑
- Lending needles, re-using needles and other injecting equipment decreased (significant)



For most information please visit the NDARC 'Drug Trends' website

<http://ndarc.med.unsw.edu.au/group/drug-trends>