

AUSTRALIAN DRUG TRENDS 2016

FINDINGS FROM THE ILLICIT DRUGS REPORTING SYSTEM (IDRS)



Key findings- Drug Trend Conference Handout

The Illicit Drug Reporting System (IDRS) is a national illicit drug monitoring system intended to identify 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 NDARC Symposium) presents key findings for the 2016 IDRS (PWID survey component) and may be subject to minor change. Final figures will appear in the 2016 national and jurisdictional reports, to be released next year. Previous years' data are available in reports published elsewhere and are accessible on the Drug Trends website <http://www.drugtrends.org.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

People who inject drugs (PWID) - those who have injected any drug 6 or more times in the last 6 months

↑ **Significant increase** from previous year (2015) compared with current year (2016)

↓ **Significant decrease** from previous year (2015) compared with current year (2016)

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

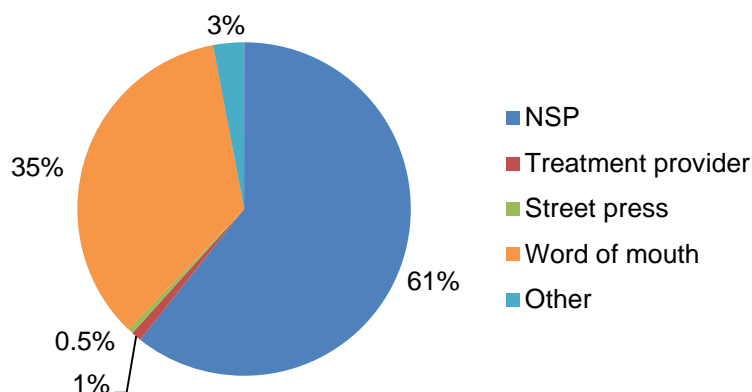
Note: due to rounding of percentages, some columns may not add up to 100%.

Suggested citation: Stafford, J., Breen, C. & Burns, L. (2016) Australian Drug Trends 2016: Findings from the Illicit Drug Reporting System (IDRS). 2016 NDARC Annual Research Symposium, Sydney. National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, University of New South Wales, Australia.

KEY FINDINGS FROM THE 2016 IDRS

PARTICIPANT RECRUITMENT

- 41% of participants nationally reported they had completed the IDRS survey in a previous year.
- Participants were primarily recruited through Needle and Syringe programs (NSP) and word of mouth (snowballing).



DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

Table 1. Demographic characteristics of the sample, 2016

	National		NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
	N=888	N=877	n=150	n=100	n=175	n=99	n=101	n=71	n=90	n=91
	2015	2016								
Mean age (years)	42	43	43	44	41	41	44	44	46	41
% Male	67	69	73	73	72	61	61	66	67	74
% English speaking background	98	98	97	98	95	100	97	97	100	100
% Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	20	17	24	24	9	16	7	9	33	19
% Single	58	61	66	65	53	62	68	49	61	60
% Heterosexual	92	89	87	92	90	93	86	90	90	88
Mean grade at school completed	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	11	10	10
% Completed trade/tech qualification	48	47	47	52	39	51	48	54	40	54
% Unemployed	83	86	89	85	91	85	86	72	91	84
Mean income per week (\$)	(N=867) \$426	(N=851) \$418	(n=143) \$382	(n=99) \$379	(n=170) \$449	(n=95) \$407	(n=96) \$417	(n=70) \$511	(n=89) \$378	(n=89) \$441
% Prison history	(N=858) 53	(N=858) 55	(n=149) 67	(n=97) 56	(n=171) 56	(n=91) 46	(n=99) 55	(n=70) 37	(N=90) 51	(n=91) 55
% Currently in drug treatment[#]	47	43	54	46	44	57	33	42	12	47

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, 2016

	National		NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
	N=888	N=877	n=150	n=100	n=175	n=99	n=101	n=71	n=90	n=91
	2015	2016								
Mean age first injected	20	20	20	20	19	20	19	19	23	19
% Drug of choice										
Heroin	52	46	60	52	64	18	32	66	22	51
Methamphetamine [^]	25	29	24	36	22	30	51	28	26	23
<i>Speed</i>	9	7	1	5	3	12	15	3	9	10
<i>Base</i>	1	1	0	1	0	0	10	0	0	2
<i>Crystal</i>	15	21↑	23	30	18	18	26	25	17	11
Morphine	10	8	0	0	1	22	5	0	34	11
Oxycodone	1	1	1	0	0	3	0	1	2	0
Methadone	3	3	5	2	0	11	2	1	0	2
Buprenorphine [#]	2	1	0	0	1	2	1	1	1	2
Cocaine	1	1	4	1	2	0	0	0	1	0
Cannabis	4	6	3	5	8	4	8	1	7	8
Other drugs	2	2	1	4	2	9	1	2	7	3
% Drug injected most often last month										
Heroin	41	39	55	50	63	2	25	63	0	30
Methamphetamine [^]	34	40↑	37	44	34	36	63	30	35	33
<i>Speed</i>	5	3	0	4	1	8	6	0	4	0
<i>Base</i>	1	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	1
<i>Crystal</i>	28	36↑	37	40	33	28	54	30	31	32
Morphine	13	12	0	0	1	23	10	1	59	14
Oxycodone	1	1	1	0	0	2	0	1	1	2
Methadone	4	5	2	4	0	26	2	0	0	8
Buprenorphine [#]	5	3	1	0	2	5	1	3	2	8
Cocaine	1	<1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other drugs	1	0	1	2	0	5	0	2	3	6
% Injection frequency last month										
Not in last month	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	1
Weekly or less	21	17	12	19	22	26	9	7	19	14
More than weekly (but less than daily)	32	38	33	38	34	50	52	44	14	47
Once daily	17	16	21	24	13	6	13	18	26	9
2-3 times daily	23	22	21	14	25	12	25	21	36	23
> 3 times a day	7	6	11	4	7	5	2	9	6	6

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

[^] Includes speed powder, base, 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, 2003-2016

%	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
2014	60	85	75	83	13	43	79	7	66
2015	58	91	79	74	5	49	75	14	50
2016	56	86	70	77	7	37	78	7	58

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

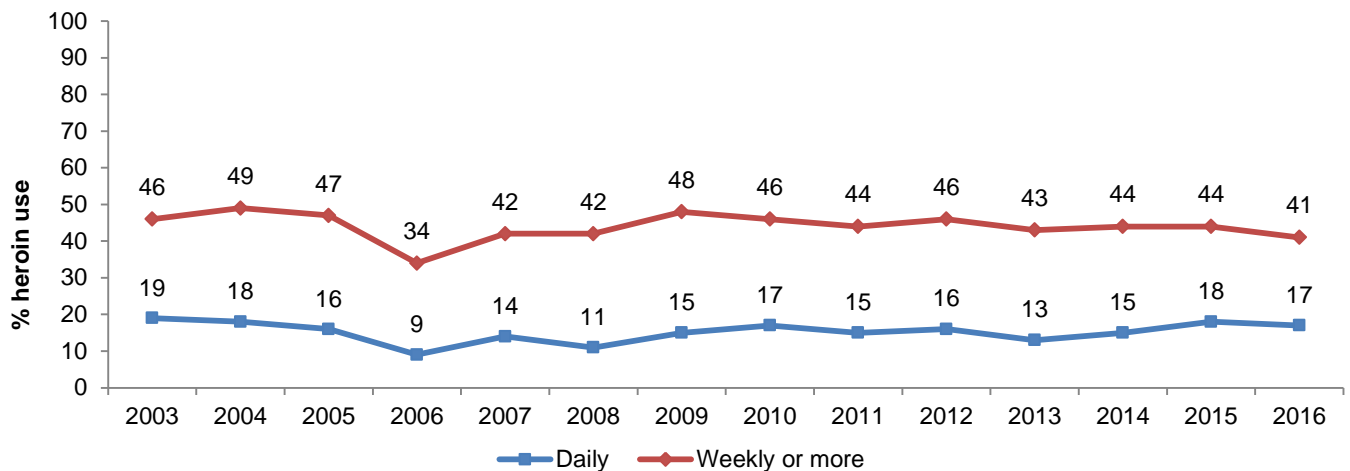
Table 4. Median days of heroin use in the preceding six months among those who had used heroin, 2003-2016

	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	-	19	20	13	52
2007	72	96	48	90	-	48	72	-	28
2008	49	72	60	81	-	48	48	6	48
2009	72	96	48	51	6	30	96	17	72
2010	72	96	60	74	-	24	55	-	90
2011	72	90	66	63	4	72	68	-	66
2012	72	96	72	72	-	48	90	4.5	72
2013	60	90	50	72	3	72	54	3	30
2014	72	120	60	48	3	108	72	-	48
2015	90	120	70	96	3^	72	95	22	48
2016	75	90	72	90	15	75	100	-	15

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

- not published due to small numbers reported (n<10)

Note: Maximum number of days, i.e. daily use = 180. See page 1 for guide.

Figure 1: 'Daily' and 'weekly or more' heroin use among PWID in the last six months, nationally, 2003-2016

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

Availability, Purity and Price

Table 5. Reports of current heroin availability and purity by PWID who commented, 2016

	National		NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
	2015	2016								
% Current availability (n)	(N=471)	(N=457)	(n=126)	(n=66)	(n=117)	(n=6)	(n=35)	(n=52)	(n=4)	(n=51)
Very easy	49	53	52	41	62	-	46	69	-	45
Easy	39	38	40	39	36	-	46	25	-	51
Difficult	10	8	8	18	3	-	9	6	-	2
Very difficult	2	1	0	2	0	-	0	0	-	2
% Current purity (n)	(N=460)	(N=451)	(n=124)	(n=66)	(n=117)	(n=6)	(n=34)	(n=50)	(n=4)	(n=50)
High	11	19	23	30	12	-	21	18	-	8
Medium	34	34	29	33	30	-	41	50	-	40
Low	42	33	36	27	43	-	35	20	-	30
Fluctuates	14	13	13	9	15	-	3	12	-	22

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

- not published due to small numbers reported (n<10)

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

Table 6. Median price of last heroin purchase among those who commented, 2015-2016

	Median price \$ per cap		Median price \$ per gram	
	2015	2016	2015	2016
National	50	50	300	350
NSW	50	50	400	350
ACT	50	80	300	300
VIC	50	40	250	220
TAS	-	-	-	-
SA	50	50	400	400
WA	100	100	600	600
NT	-	-	-	-
QLD	50	50	-	-

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

- not published due to small numbers reported (n<10)

METHAMPHETAMINE

Patterns of Methamphetamine Use

Table 7. Proportion of PWID who reported use of any form of methamphetamine[^], last six months, 2003-2016

%	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
2014	70	75	76	77	70	75	66	37	72
2015	72	66	81	74	72	76	71	67	67
2016	75	77	83	73	75	77	65	71	70

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

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

Table 8. Proportion of PWID who reported use of speed powder, last six months, 2003-2016

%	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
2014	30	17	36	25	50	34	39	16	31
2015	25	13	15	18	49	32	34	25	27
2016	20↓	17	18	9	33	19	18	24	27

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

Table 9. Proportion of PWID who reported use of base methamphetamine, last six months, 2003-2016

%	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
2014	12	12	4	3	19	30	8	4	22
2015	10	6	10	4	9	26	2	4	20
2016	8	11	5	0	4	24	3	6	14

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

Table 10. Proportion of PWID who reported use of crystal methamphetamine, last six months, 2003-2016

%	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
2014	61	74	72	75	54	60	53	26	58
2015	67	65	79	71	59	70	64	60	62
2016	73↑	77	78	73	73	75	62	69	69

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

Table 11. Median days of methamphetamine use in the last six months among those who had used methamphetamine, 2016

	National	NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD	
	2015	2016								
Speed	11	6	7	8	3	6	5	10	6	5.5
Base	7	8	4.5	-	-	-	22	-	-	6
Crystal	20	30↑	48	37.5	22	24	72	46.5	12	12
Any form®	24	36.5↑	54	35	19.5	31	80	46.5	12	15.5

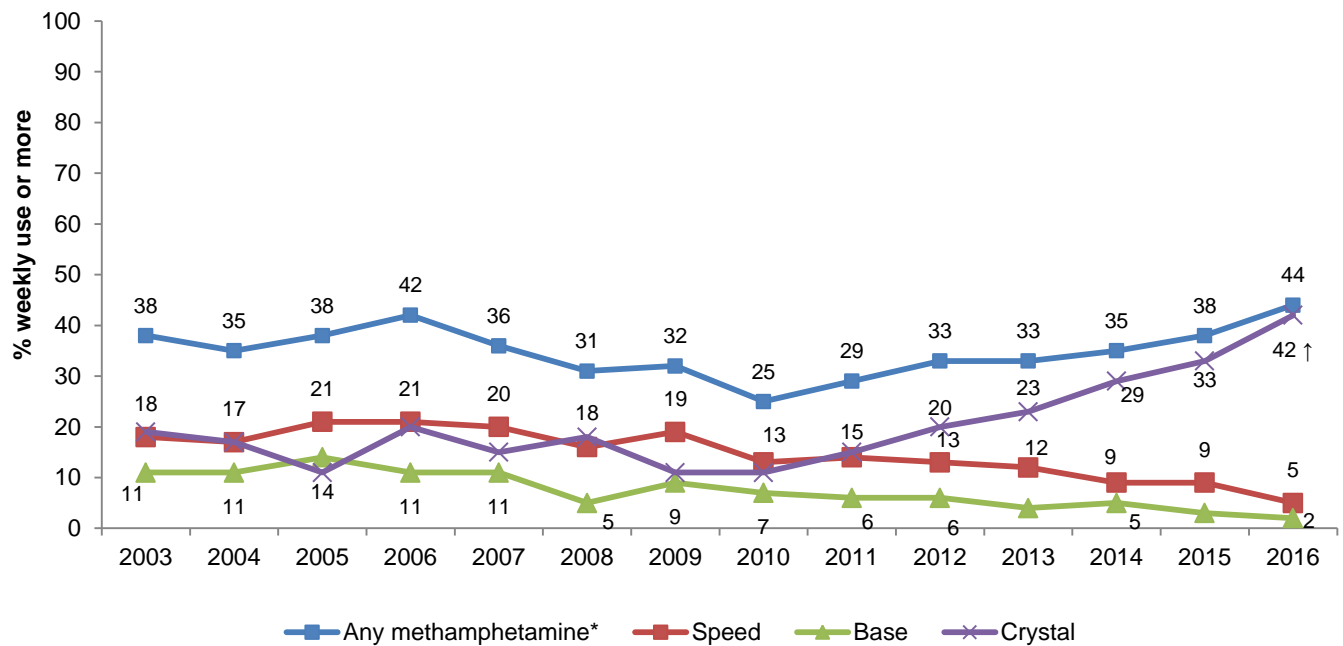
Source: IDRS PWID interviews

- not published due to small numbers reported (n<10)

® Includes speed powder, base crystal and liquid forms

Note: Maximum number of days, i.e. daily use = 180. See page 1 for guide.

Figure 2: 'Weekly or more' methamphetamine use among PWID in the last six months, nationally, 2003-2016



Source: IDRS PWID interviews

* includes speed, base, crystal and liquid forms. Includes pharmaceutical stimulants between 2003-2005

Table 12. Reports of current methamphetamine availability by PWID who commented, 2016

	National		NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
	2015	2016								
% Speed (n)	(N=178)	(N=119)	(n=16)	(n=25)	(n=2)	(n=23)	(n=14)	(n=4)	(n=19)	(n=16)
Very easy	40	39	25	44	-	39	29	-	32	50
Easy	37	36	25	40	-	30	43	-	58	25
Difficult	19	15	31	4	-	13	29	-	5	19
Very difficult	4	10	19	12	-	17	0	-	5	6
% Base (n)	(N=54)	(N=48)	(n=10)	(n=5)	(n=0)	(n=2)	(n=22)	(n=0)	(n=2)	(n=7)
Very easy	30	33	30	-	-	-	41	-	-	-
Easy	32	35	20	-	-	-	36	-	-	-
Difficult	30	23	30	-	-	-	23	-	-	-
Very difficult	9	8	20	-	-	-	0	-	-	-
% Crystal (n)	(N=501)	(N=545)	(n=104)	(n=65)	(n=86)	(n=68)	(n=76)	(n=37)	(n=52)	(n=57)
Very easy	56	58	61	54	64	52	61	67	50	53
Easy	39	38	36	45	35	46	34	27	44	41
Difficult	4	4	4	2	1	3	5	5	6	5
Very difficult	1	<1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

- not published due to small numbers reported (n<10)

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

Table 13. Reports of current methamphetamine purity by PWID who commented, 2016

	National		NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
	2015	2016								
% Speed (n)	(N=171)	(N=112)	(n=13)	(n=24)	(n=2)	(n=21)	(n=14)	(n=4)	(n=19)	(n=15)
High	28	30	15	25	-	19	50	-	37	27
Medium	34	38	39	38	-	29	43	-	37	53
Low	24	19	15	21	-	43	0	-	21	7
Fluctuates	14	13	31	17	-	10	7	-	5	13
% Base (n)	(N=52)	(N=45)	(n=9)	(n=4)	(n=0)	(n=2)	(n=22)	(n=0)	(n=2)	(n=6)
High	40	29	-	-	-	-	27	-	-	-
Medium	25	47	-	-	-	-	55	-	-	-
Low	15	16	-	-	0	-	14	-	-	-
Fluctuates	15	9	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-
% Crystal (n)	(N=473)	(N=525)	(n=103)	(n=63)	(n=82)	(n=66)	(n=76)	(n=37)	(n=48)	(n=50)
High	40	37	26	24	33	38	40	60	52	48
Medium	27	32	29	43	35	35	33	19	23	36
Low	15	16	22	16	20	15	15	11	15	8
Fluctuates	18	14	22	18	12	12	13	11	10	8

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

- not published due to small numbers reported (n<10)

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

Table 14. Median price of last methamphetamine purchase among those who commented, 2015-2016

	Median price \$ per point						Median price \$ per gram					
	Speed powder		Base		Crystal		Speed powder		Base		Crystal	
	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016
National	50	50	80	50	80	50	300	300	-	400	450	400
NSW	50	-	-	-	50	50	-	-	-	-	330	400
ACT	50	50	-	-	100	85	-	-	-	-	500	500
VIC	-	-	-	-	50	50	-	-	-	-	350	350
TAS	50	50	-	-	100	100	-	-	-	-	-	-
SA	50	50	100	50	100	50	-	-	-	-	450	400
WA	-	-	-	-	100	100	-	-	-	-	-	-
NT	100	100	-	-	150	100	-	-	-	-	-	-
QLD	100	50	-	-	100	50	-	-	-	-	-	400

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

- not published due to small numbers reported (n<10)

COCAINE

Patterns of Cocaine Use

Table 15. Proportion of PWID who reported using cocaine in the preceding six months, 2003-2016

%	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
2014	12	32	15	10	8	7	7	2	9
2015	13	34	12	9	2	13	11	4	8
2016	11	25	8	10	6	6	10	4	9

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

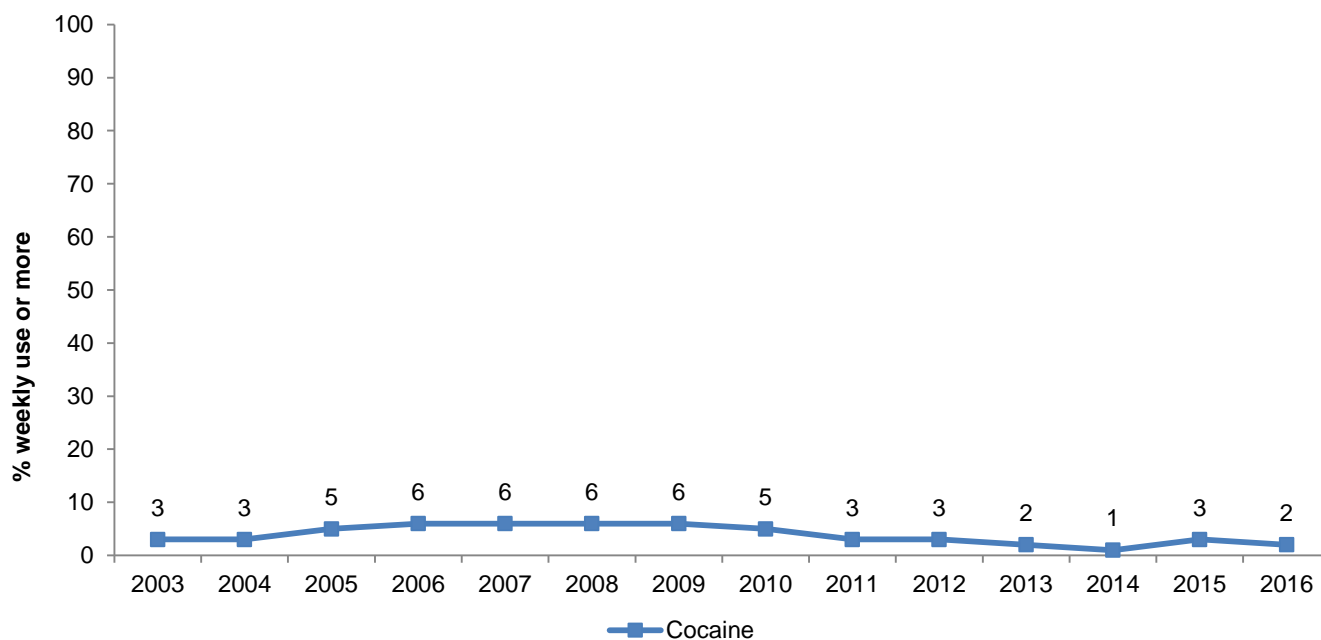
Table 16. Median days of cocaine use in the preceding six months of those who had used cocaine, 2003-2016

	National	NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
2003	4	5	4	2	-	2	5.5	-	2.5
2004	4	6	5	2	-	-	2	6	2
2005	5	12	2	3	-	-	3	1	6.5
2006	5.5	20	-	2	3	-	3	-	-
2007	5	20	3	3	-	-	4	-	1.5
2008	6	12	2.5	4.5	-	-	2	-	3
2009	5	20	2	3	-	3	1.5	4.5	2
2010	5	12	-	5	-	1	3	-	5
2011	5	10	-	3	-	2	2	-	2
2012	3	7	2	3.5	1	-	2	-	-
2013	3	6	3.5	3.5	-	-	1	-	2
2014	2	3	2	2	-	-	-	-	-
2015	4	10	3.5	5	-	1	2	-	-
2016	3	6	-	4	-	-	-	-	-

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

- not published due to small numbers reported (n<10)

Note: Maximum number of days, i.e. daily use = 180. See page 1 for guide.

Figure 3: 'Weekly or more' cocaine use among PWID, nationally in the last six months, 2003-2016

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

Availability, Purity and Price

Table 17. Reports of current cocaine availability and purity by PWID who commented, 2016

	National		NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
	2015	2016								
% Current availability (n)	(N=62)	(N=41)	(n=24)	(n=5)	(n=2)	(n=2)	(n=2)	(n=2)	(n=1)	(n=3)
Very easy	42	22	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easy	32	39	33	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Difficult	21	34	38	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Very difficult	5	5	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
% Current purity (n)	(N=62)	(N=42)	(n=24)	(n=5)	(n=2)	(n=3)	(n=2)	(n=2)	(n=1)	(n=3)
High	27	29	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Medium	39	31	42	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Low	26	31	29	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fluctuates	8	10	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

- not published due to small numbers reported (n<10)

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

Table 18. Median price of last cocaine purchase among those commented, 2015-2016

	Median price \$ per cap		Median price \$ per gram	
	2015	2016	2015	2016
National	50	50	375	400
NSW	50	50	400	-
ACT	-	-	-	-
VIC	-	-	-	-
TAS	-	-	-	-
SA	-	-	-	-
WA	-	-	-	-
NT	-	-	-	-
QLD	-	-	-	-

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

- not published due to small numbers reported (n<10)

CANNABIS

Patterns of Cannabis Use

Table 19. Proportion of PWID who reported cannabis use in the preceding six months, 2003-2016

%	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
2014	73	77	74	75	82	75	69	62	70
2015	73	79	81	76	73	74	60	72	60
2016	73	76	69	77	74	73	70	72	64

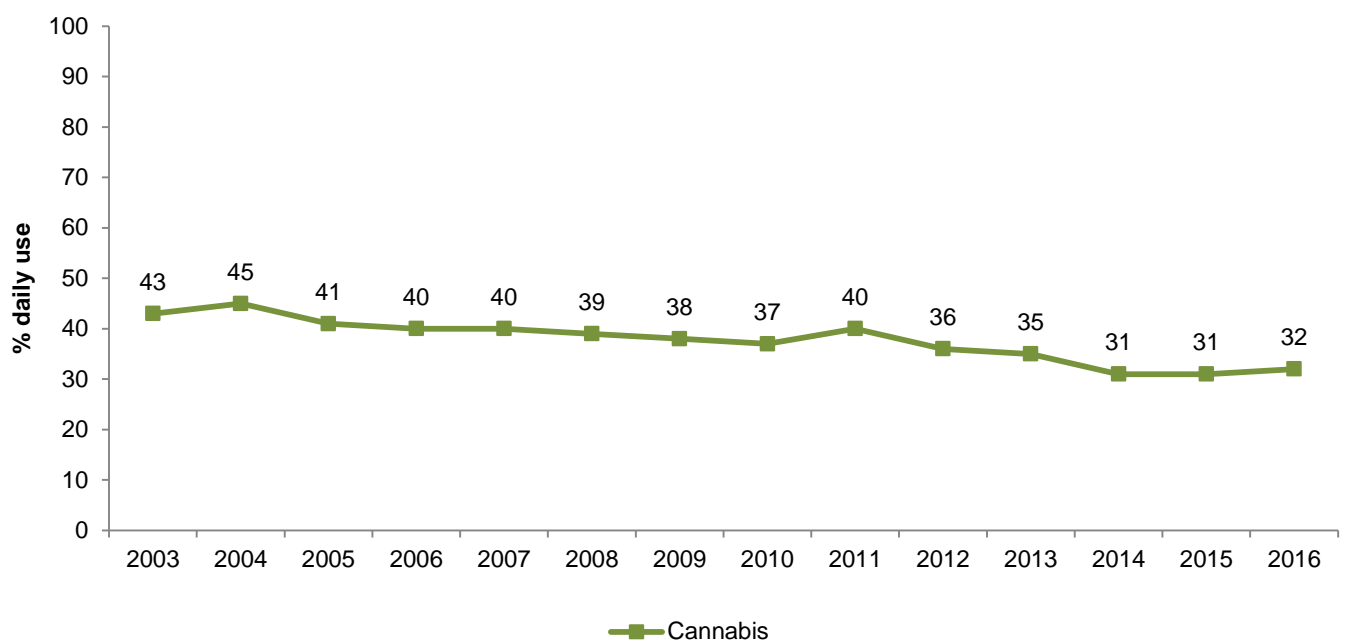
Source: IDRS PWID interviews

Table 20. Median days of cannabis use in the preceding six months of those who had used cannabis, 2003-2016

	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
2014	96	96	180	120	180	120	72	72	40
2015	120	120	160	125	170	90	48	180	90
2016	135	155	180	96	168	175	60	180	72

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

Note: Maximum number of days = 180. See page 1 for guide

Figure 4: 'Daily' cannabis use among PWID in the last six months, nationally, 2003-2016

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

Availability, Potency and Price

Table 21. Reports of current cannabis availability and potency by PWID who commented, 2016

	National		NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
	2015	2016								
% Current availability (n)										
Hydro	(N=442)	(N=447)	(n=88)	(n=55)	(n=69)	(n=58)	(n=53)	(n=30)	(n=54)	(n=40)
Very easy	55	49	57	42	62	43	43	60	41	33
Easy	37	43	36	51	30	47	47	40	44	58
Difficult	7	8	7	7	7	9	9	0	13	8
Very difficult	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	3
Bush	(N=188)	(N=166)	(n=24)	(n=26)	(n=8)	(n=36)	(n=31)	(n=7)	(n=13)	(n=21)
Very easy	34	33	33	27	-	36	39	-	46	10
Easy	42	45	46	42	-	50	42	-	46	43
Difficult	21	19	21	23	-	11	16	-	8	38
Very difficult	4	4	0	7	-	3	3	-	0	10
% Current potency (n)										
Hydro	(N=435)	(N=447)	(n=88)	(n=55)	(n=69)	(n=58)	(n=53)	(n=29)	(n=54)	(n=41)
High	52	57	56	60	54	57	51	69	50	68
Medium	32	31	28	33	38	28	32	24	33	24
Low	5	4	8	2	1	2	8	0	7	0
Fluctuates	11	9	8	6	7	14	9	7	9	7
Bush	(N=186)	(N=168)	(n=24)	(n=26)	(n=8)	(n=37)	(n=32)	(n=7)	(n=13)	(n=21)
High	32	26	46	27	-	14	38	-	23	10
Medium	47	61	38	65	-	70	53	-	62	81
Low	15	10	8	8	-	11	9	-	8	5
Fluctuates	6	4	8	0	-	5	0	-	8	5

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

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

Table 22. Median price of last cannabis purchase among those commented, 2015-2016

	Median price \$ per gram				Median price \$ per ounce			
	Hydro		Bush		Hydro		Bush	
	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016
National	20	20	20	20	300	280	230	250
NSW	20	20	20	20	300	300	-	-
ACT	20	20	-	20	300	250	-	-
VIC	20	20	-	-	250	250	-	-
TAS	25	22.5	-	20	280	295	-	-
SA	25 [#]	25[#]	25 [#]	25[#]	200	220	220	-
WA	-	25	-	-	350	325	-	-
NT	30	30	30	-	450	450	-	-
QLD	-	25	-	-	280	-	-	-

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

- not published due to small numbers reported (n<10)

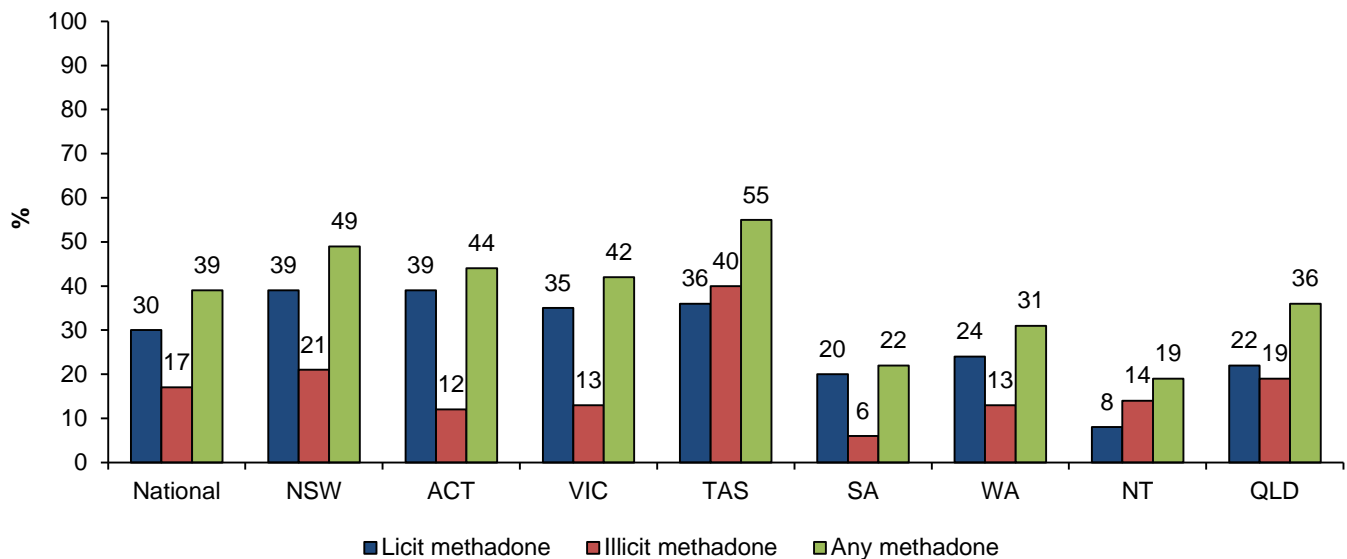
[#] SA purchase is per bag instead of per gram

USE OF OTHER DRUGS

The following figures reflect use by people who currently inject drugs; 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 prescribed to another person.

Recent use of methadone

Figure 5: Proportion of PWID who reported the use of licit (prescribed) and illicit methadone in the preceding six months, 2016



Source: IDRS PWID interviews

Note: Recent use includes methadone syrup and Physeptone tablets. In 2015, any recent methadone use nationally was 41%.

Methadone injection

Table 23. Proportion of PWID who reported injecting methadone (any form) in the preceding six months, 2003-2016[#]

%	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
2014	21	27	24	11	52	8	18	17	17
2015	18	21	21	10	43	12	9	15	13
2016	18	21	18	6	52	7	8	13	24

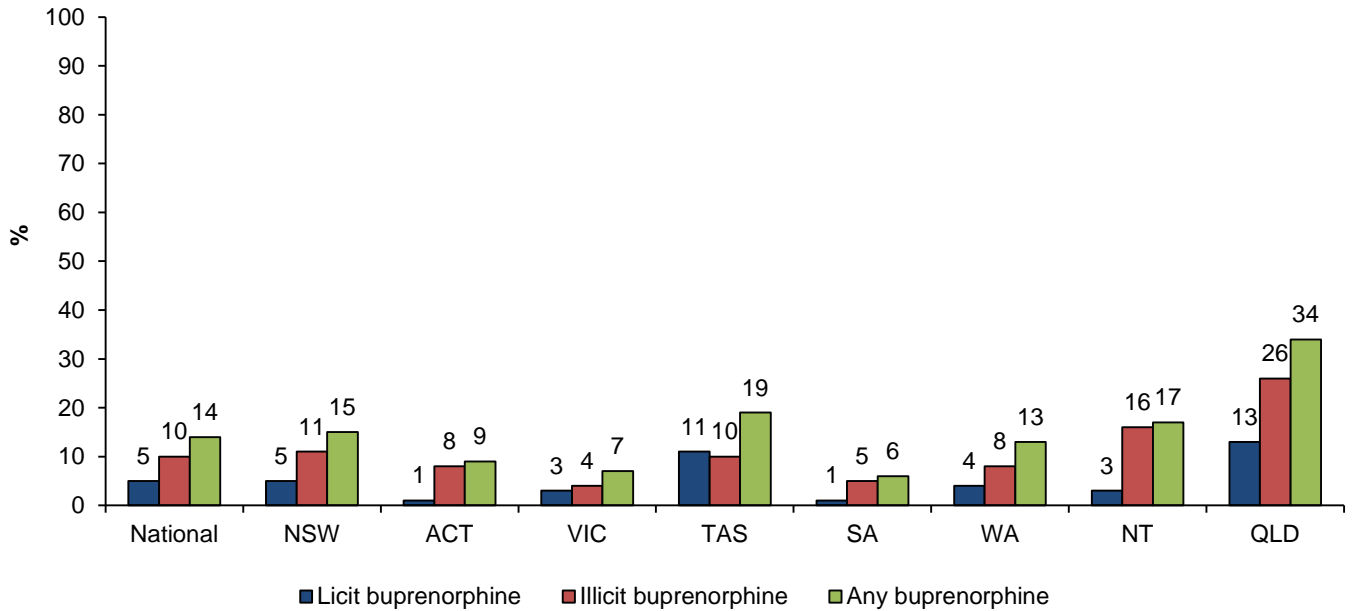
Source: IDRS PWID interviews

[#] 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 6: Proportion of PWID who reported use of licit (prescribed) and illicit buprenorphine in the preceding six months, 2016

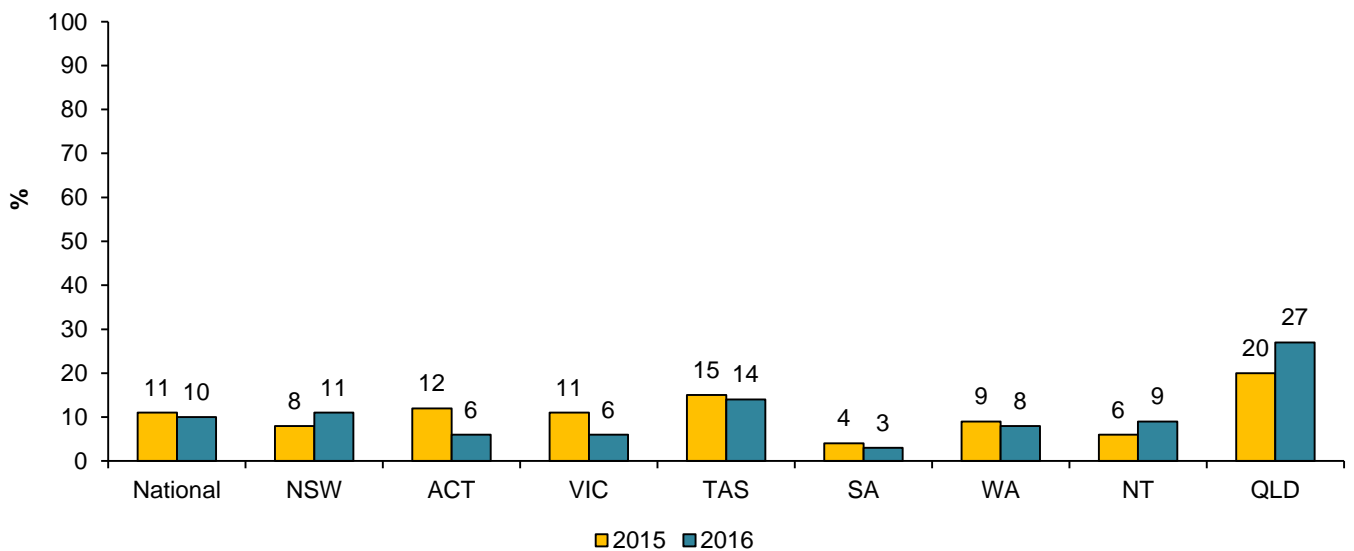


Source: IDRS PWID interviews

Note: In 2015, any recent buprenorphine use nationally was 14%.

Buprenorphine injection

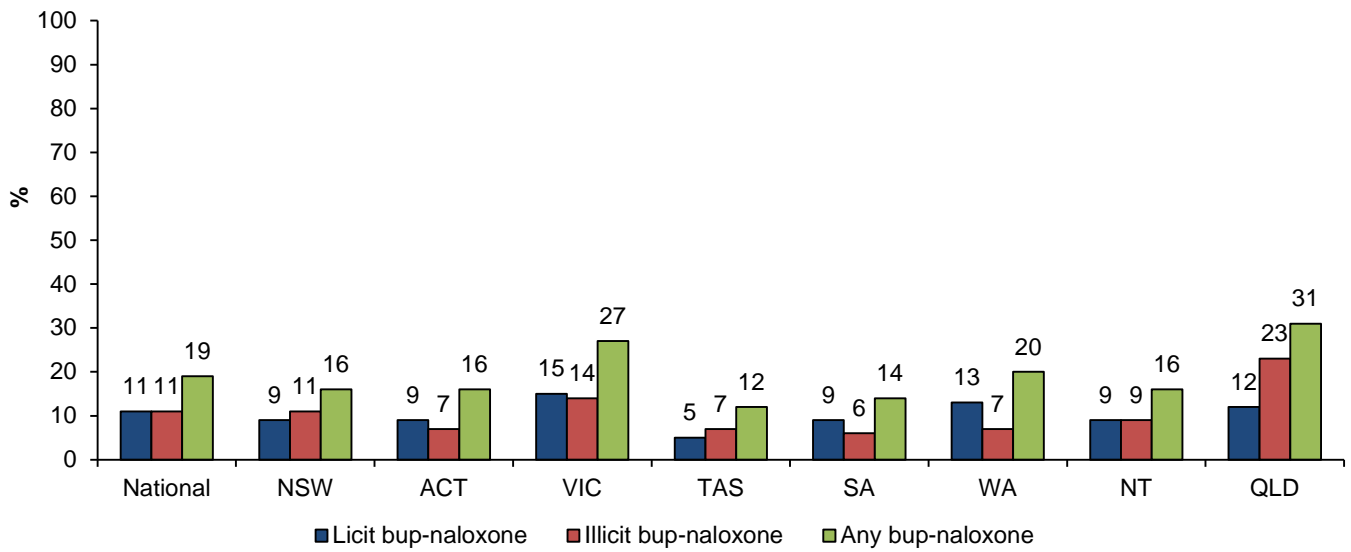
Figure 7: Recent injection of buprenorphine (any form), 2015-2016



Source: IDRS PWID interviews

Recent use of buprenorphine-naloxone

Figure 8: Proportion of PWID who reported use of licit (prescribed) and illicit buprenorphine-naloxone in the preceding six months, 2016

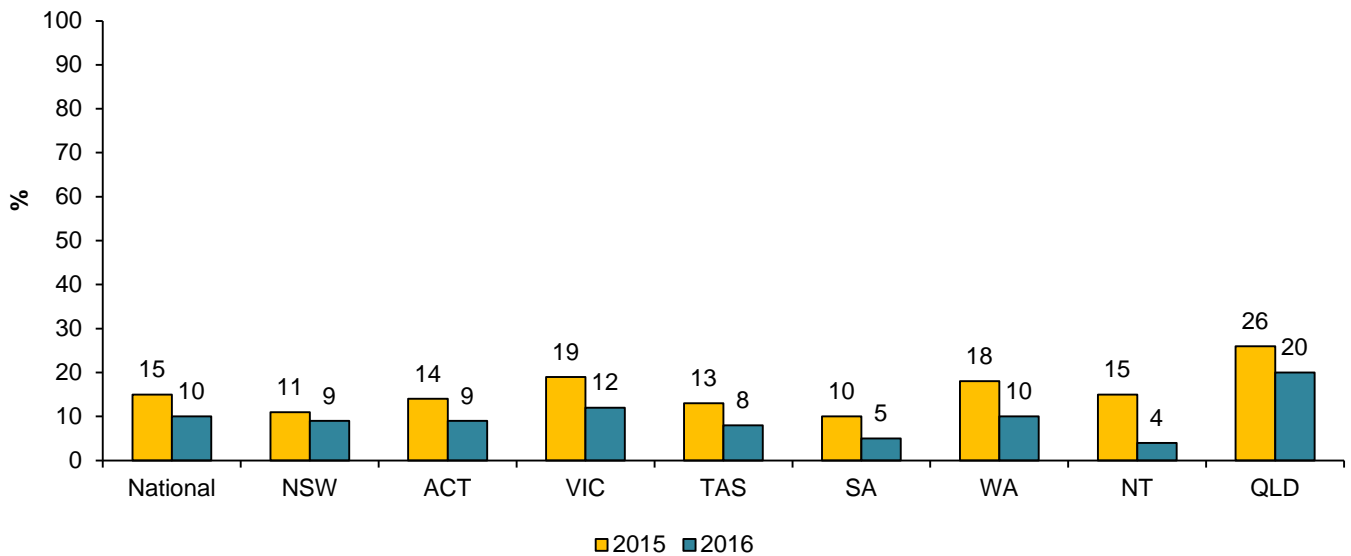


Source: IDRS PWID interviews

Note: Recent use includes buprenorphine-naloxone TABLET and FILM. In 2015, any recent buprenorphine-naloxone use nationally was 26%.

Buprenorphine-naloxone injection

Figure 9: Recent injection of buprenorphine-naloxone (any form), 2015-2016



Source: IDRS PWID interviews

Note: Recent injection includes buprenorphine-naloxone TABLET and FILM

Recent use of morphine

Table 24. Proportion of PWID who reported recent use of morphine (any form), 2003-2016

%	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
2014	37	29	17	25	71	22	29	85	34
2015	31	21	24	13	48	26	25	73	33
2016	29	18	16	12	51	25	17	76	36

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

Note: In 2016 nationally, recent use of morphine licit = 6% and illicit = 26%

Morphine injection

Table 25. Recent injection of morphine (any form), 2007-2016

%	National	NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
2003	40	20	49	39	69	42	40	80	40
2004	46	24	40	41	60	40	43	86	45
2005	41	24	30	39	55	34	48	79	28
2006	49	32	51	32	61	49	53	81	52
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
2014	35	27	13	22	71	20	28	84	31
2015	28	19	21	13	48	13	23	72	32
2016	27	16	10	10	51	23	15	72	35

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

Note: In 2016 nationally, recent injection of morphine licit = 5% and illicit = 25%

Recent use of oxycodone

Table 26. Proportion of PWID who reported recent use of oxycodone (any form), 2005-2016

%	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
2014	33	44	21	25	49	26	30	24	40
2015	25	25	17	24	28	28	25	26	26
2016	21↓	25	14	14	28	21	20	20	25

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

Note: Data collection commenced in 2005. In 2016 nationally, recent use of oxycodone licit = 4% and illicit = 18%

Oxycodone injection

Table 27. Recent injection of oxycodone (any form), 2007-2016

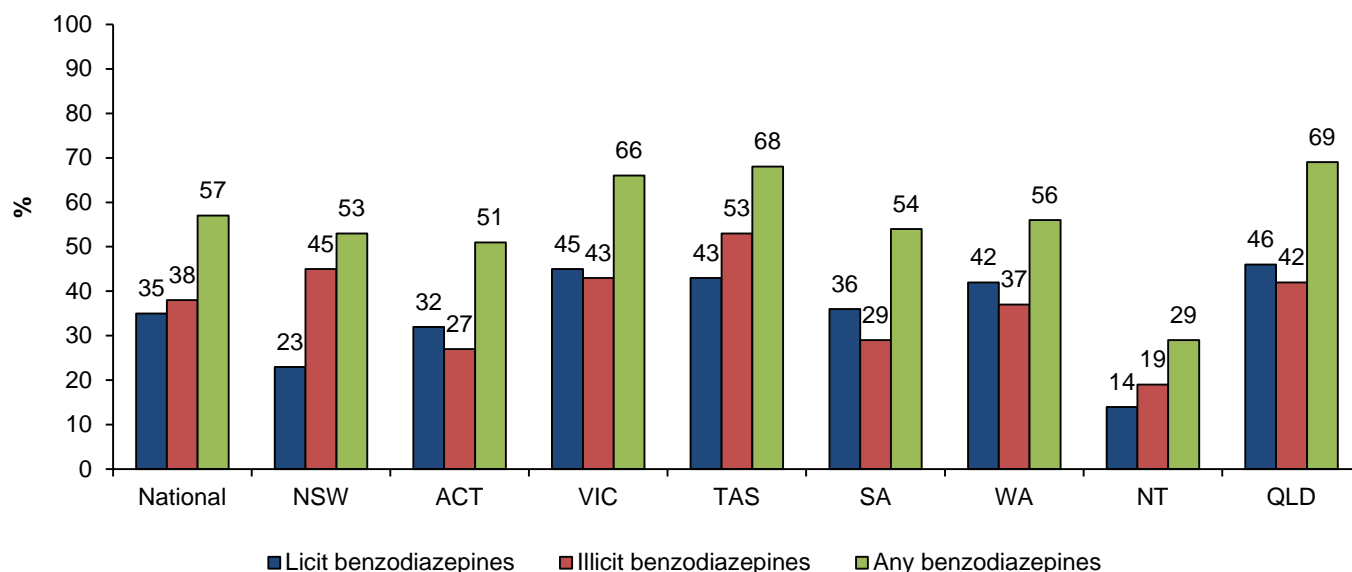
%	National	NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
2005	18	11	11	15	26	12	37	10	15
2006	22	16	16	25	26	20	43	8	23
2007	27	25	23	28	30	20	43	9	38
2008	26	24	25	24	47	11	24	29	27
2009	29	26	27	24	56	11	29	30	34
2010	28	31	11	29	57	18	24	28	27
2011	31	32	17	36	44	20	31	27	41
2012	33	42	31	24	59	23	48	20	24
2013	31	37	18	22	60	15	35	23	36
2014	28	39	11	20	47	17	29	23	34
2015	19	20	14	16	27	16	18	23	20
2016	16	17	9	9	24	12	20	20	23

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

Note: In 2016 nationally, recent injection of oxycodone licit = 2% and illicit = 15%

Recent use of benzodiazepines

Figure 10: Proportion of PWID who reported use of licit (prescribed) and illicit benzodiazepines in the preceding six months, 2016



Source: IDRS PWID interviews

Note: Recent use includes Alprazolam and other benzodiazepines. In 2015, any recent benzodiazepine use nationally was 60%.

Benzodiazepine injection

Table 28. Recent injection of benzodiazepines (any form), 2003-2016

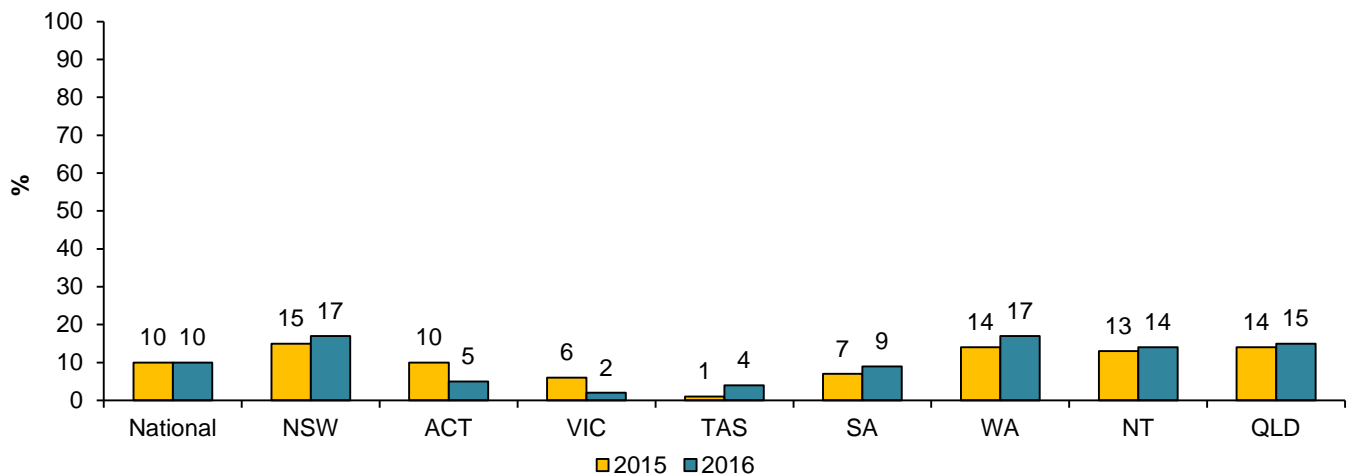
%	National	NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
2003	17	20	9	15	31	8	12	30	11
2004	14	13	7	16	30	9	12	20	8
2005	8	2	2	6	23	2	7	21	7
2006	12	4	1	9	34	10	11	19	10
2007	11	<1	11	11	29	7	9	20	3
2008	11	3	7	7	36	2	3	26	5
2009	8	3	3	6	25	4	3	22	4
2010	8	6	1	4	16	3	3	23	5
2011	10	3	6	8	23	4	6	22	14
2012	7	2	6	4	26	3	6	11	2
2013	6	1	2	2	23	4	0	7	7
2014	4	3	3	3	9	2	1	8	3
2015	6	4	1	<1	14	3	0	17	4
2016	3	1	2	1	7	2	3	10	4

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

Note: Recent injection includes Alprazolam and other benzodiazepines. In 2016 nationally, recent injection of any benzodiazepine licit = 1% and illicit = 3%

Recent use of fentanyl

Figure 11: Recent use of fentanyl (any form), 2015-2016



Source: IDRS PWID interviews

Alcohol and tobacco

Table 29. Patterns of alcohol and tobacco use by PWID in the preceding six months, 2016

	National		NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
	N=888	N=877	n=150	n=100	n=175	n=99	n=101	n=71	n=90	n=91
	2015	2016								
% Recent use										
Alcohol	61	58	57	55	60	55	56	68	49	64
Tobacco	92	93	91	90	97	97	97	85	94	91
% Median days used by those who had used[#]										
Alcohol	24	24	11	50	24	11	24	24	24	19.5
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 30. Proportion of injection-related issues in last month, 2016

	National		NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
	N=851	N=850	n=150	n=100	n=174	n=82	n=99	n=65	n=90	n=90
	2015	2016								
% Any injection related problem	64	66	70	62	70	65	66	59	47	79
% Problem:										
Scarring/bruising	46	47	49	40	56	49	48	45	32	58
Difficult injecting	39	41	39	46	43	35	39	43	31	64
Dirty hit	10	7	9	4	7	10	4	9	8	9
Infection/abscess	6	8	11	9	9	5	7	3	4	12
Thrombosis	5	4	4	6	6	4	3	3	0	6
Overdose	3	4	4	5	3	1	8	5	0	6

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

Table 31. Injecting risk behaviour in last month, 2016

	National		NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
	N=857	N=860	n=147	n=97	n=175	n=92	n=100	n=69	n=90	n=90
	2015	2016								
% Borrowed a needle	7	7	10	3	11	3	4	6	3	8
% Lent a needle	11	11	12	9	18	4	8	15	4	13
% Shared injecting equipment[^]	25	26	26	25	33	10	34	25	22	21
% Reused own needle	39	38	54	35	42	29	40	38	14	39
% Reused own injecting equipment	53	55	61	46	48	46	60	52	70	62
% Last site of injection										
Arm	73	74	69	78	73	70	84	73	76	71
Leg	6	5	7	5	2	7	0	3	9	7
Hand/wrist	13	11	11	10	12	12	8	15	12	10
Foot	1	2	1	3	1	2	2	0	0	6
Groin	2	3	3	0	5	3	1	1	2	1
Neck	4	5	8	1	7	6	5	9	0	3
Other	1	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	2

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

[^] includes spoons, water, tourniquets and filters and excludes needles

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

Mental health problems

Table 32. Self-reported mental health problems experienced in the preceding six months, 2016

	National		NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
	N=834	N=863	n=149	n=100	n=175	n=86	n=101	n=71	n=90	n=91
	2015	2016								
% Any self-reported mental health problem in the last six months	44	43	35	40	60	47	49	34	21	48
% self-reported mental health problem:										
Depression	29	29	21	26	43	33	31	24	17	26
Anxiety	21	22	17	17	35	30	21	21	10	19
Manic-depression/Bipolar	5	5	3	7	5	6	5	11	1	7
Schizophrenia	6	5	6	4	10	3	5	1	2	4
Posttraumatic stress disorder	6	7	6	7	6	5	8	13	2	11
Panic	5	5	2	0	9	8	8	11	2	2
Paranoia	3	4	1	0	8	8	6	6	2	1
Drug induced psychosis	3	4	5	1	6	3	8	6	1	4
% Attended health professional for self-reported mental health problem in the last six months	31	29	23	29	43	31	32	27	12	25

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

Notes: Other mental health problems: mania (2%), phobias (2%), OCD (2%), any personality disorder (2%), other psychosis (1%), other mental health problem (4%)

General Practitioner (21%) main professional visited followed by a psychologist (8%) and psychiatrist (7%)

CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

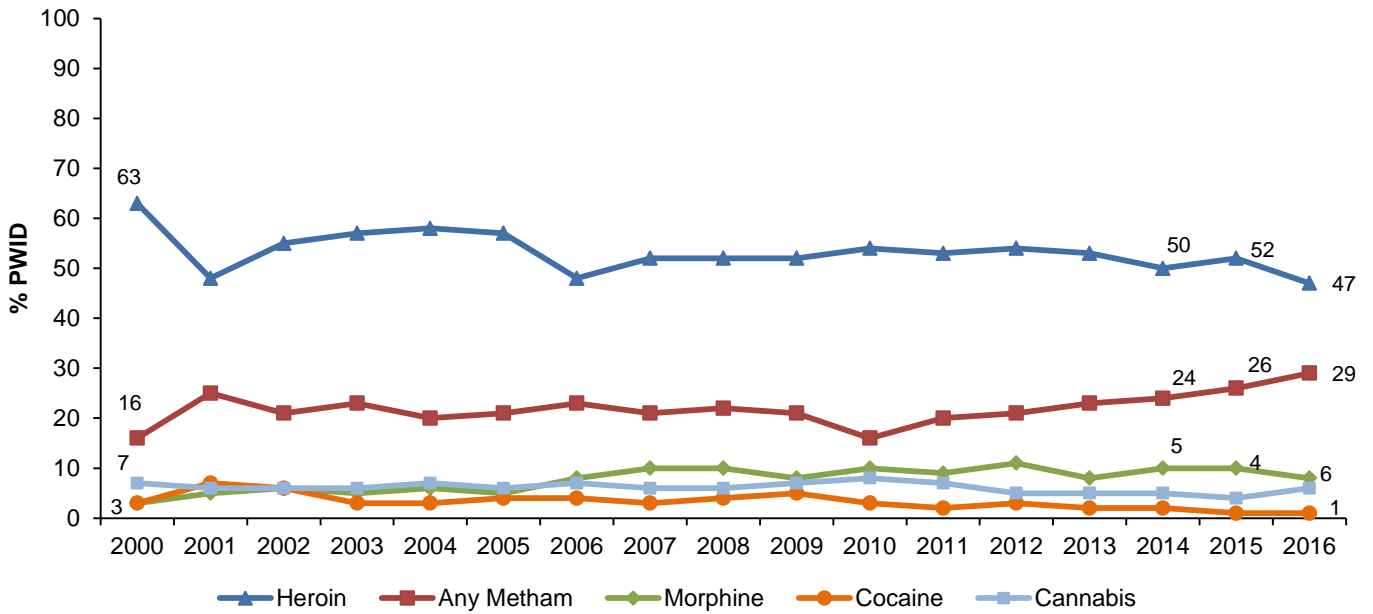
Table 33. Proportion of PWID that reported criminal activity, 2016

	National		NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
	N=855	N=857	n=149	n=97	n=170	n=91	n=99	n=70	n=90	n=91
	2015	2016								
% Crime in the last month										
Drug dealing	27	26	30	26	20	23	29	39	13	35
Property	17	19	22	14	22	22	19	16	9	23
Fraud	4	4	6	0	8	1	1	1	2	9
Violence	4	4	6	1	4	4	4	4	1	4
% Any crime	39	39	41	33	40	36	41	46	22	47
% Victim of crime in last month	14	10	10	13	10	8	10	10	7	10
% Arrested last 12 months	31	31	33	26	39	26	24	24	20	44

Source: IDRS PWID interviews

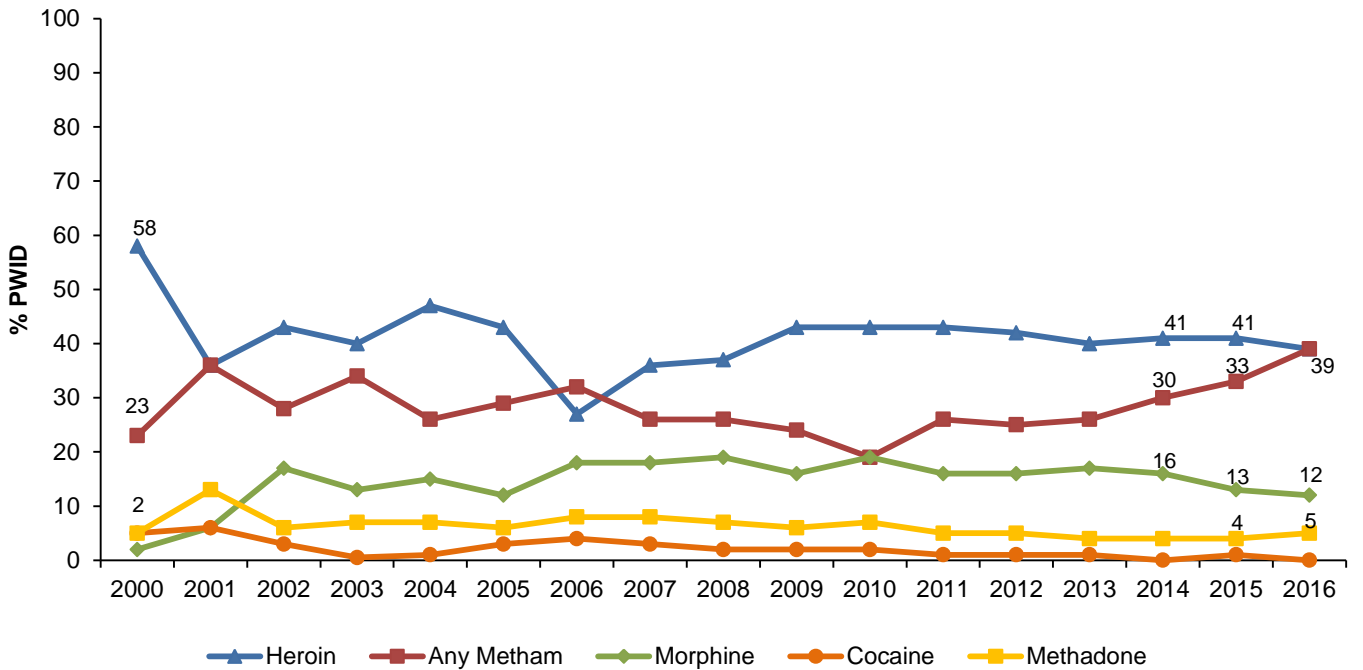
NATIONAL IDRS DRUG TRENDS

Figure 12: Drug of choice, nationally, 2000-2016



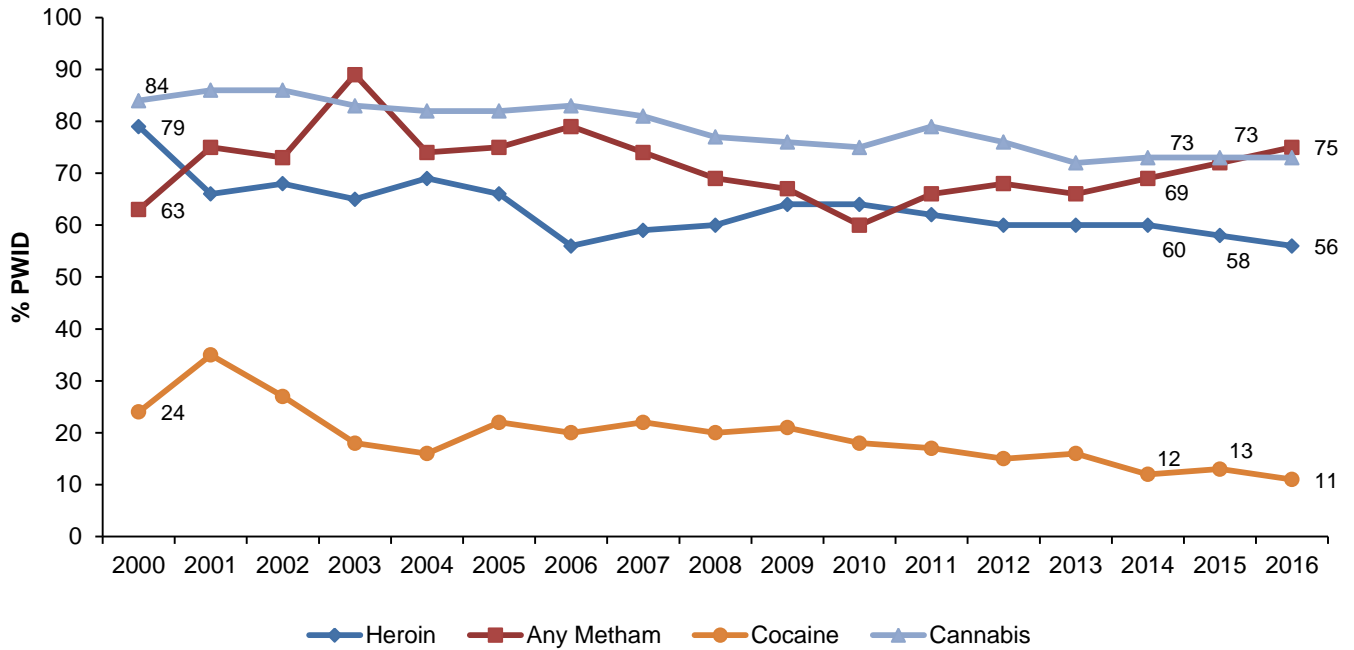
Source: IDRS PWID interviews

Figure 13: Drug injected most often in the last month, nationally, 2000-2016



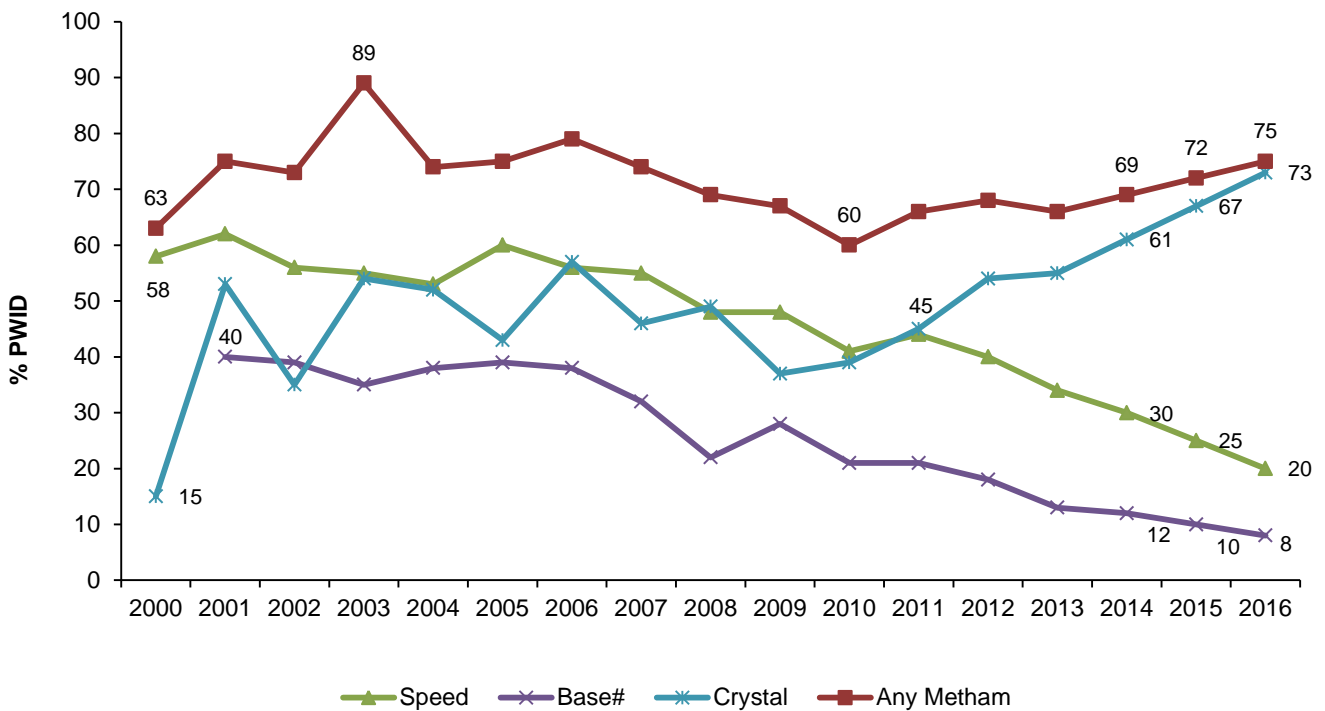
Source: IDRS PWID interviews

Figure 14: Recent use of heroin, any methamphetamine, cocaine and cannabis, nationally, 2000-2016



Source: IDRS PWID interviews

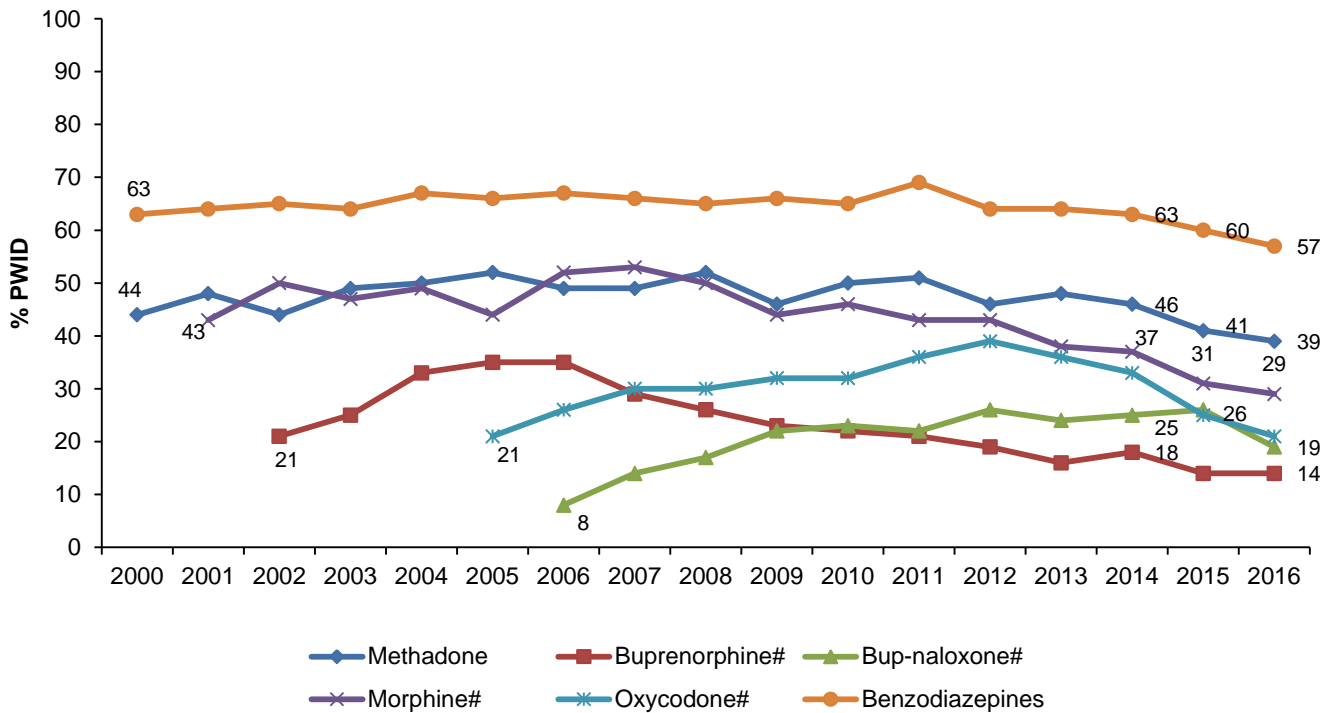
Figure 15: Recent use of speed, base and crystal, nationally, 2000-2016



Source: IDRS PWID interviews

Base asked separately from 2001 onwards.

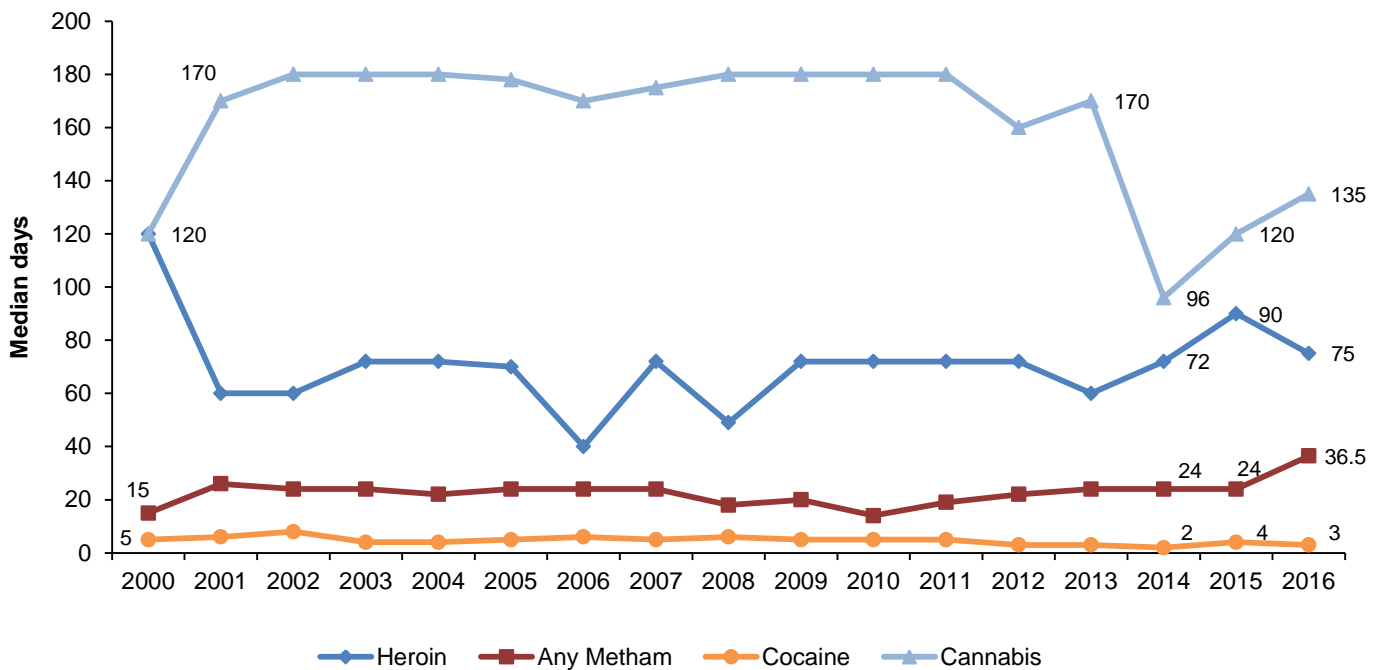
Figure 16: Recent use of other drugs, nationally, 2000-2016



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 17: Median days of heroin, methamphetamine (any form), cocaine and cannabis use among participants who had recently used, nationally, 2000-2016



Source: IDRS PWID interviews