

## Executive Summary

The Hobart Tasmania (TAS) EDRS comprises a sentinel sample of people who regularly use ecstasy and/or other illicit stimulants, recruited via social media and word-of mouth in Hobart, TAS. The results are not representative of all people who use illicit drugs, nor of use in the general population. **Data were collected in 2025 from April-July. Interviews from 2020 onwards were delivered face-to-face as well as via telephone; all interviews prior to 2020 were conducted face-to-face. This methodological change should be factored into all comparisons of data from the 2020-2025 samples, relative to previous years.**

### Sample Characteristics

The EDRS sample (N=68) recruited from Hobart, Tasmania, was similar to the sample in 2024 and in previous years. Gender remained stable between 2024 and 2025, with 56% identifying as male (52% in 2024), and participants had a median age of 28 years (25 years in 2024). One quarter (24%) were current students (31% in 2024), with almost three quarters (72%) holding post-school qualifications (57% in 2024). One fifth (21%) of the sample were employed full-time (19% in 2024) and 29% were employed on a part-time/casual basis (40% in 2024). Drug of choice and drug used most often remained stable with 31% nominating ecstasy as their drug of choice (36% in 2024), and 28% nominating cannabis as the drug used most often in the month preceding interview (28% in 2024).

### Non-Prescribed Ecstasy

Recent use of any non-prescribed ecstasy in the six months prior to interview remained stable in 2025 (91%), relative to 2024 (91%). In 2025, recent use of ecstasy pills (60%), capsules (43%), crystal (53%) and powder (29%) all remained stable from 2024. Swallowing remained the most common route of administration for pills

(90%), capsules (90%) and crystal (72%), with snorting remaining the most common route for powder (85%). In 2025, there was a significant decrease in the price of capsules (\$25; \$30 in 2024;  $p=0.024$ ), and for a point of crystal (\$30; \$90 in 2024;  $p=0.034$ ). The price of pills and powder remained stable between 2024 and 2025, as did the perceived purity and availability of all forms of non-prescribed ecstasy.

### Methamphetamine

Half (52%) of the Hobart sample reported recent use of any methamphetamine, stable relative to 2024 (40%). Participants reported a median of 48 days of use in 2025 (24 days in 2024), and three fifths (63%) reported weekly or more frequent use (51% in 2024). While these changes did not meet criteria for statistical significance, all three trends were consistently pointing toward increasing use. The majority (71%) of participants reported methamphetamine crystal (66% in 2024) as the form of methamphetamine recently used, with the greatest percentage (81%) reporting methamphetamine crystal to be 'very easy' to obtain (74% in 2024). The perceived price, purity and availability for all forms of methamphetamine remained stable between 2024 and 2025.

### Non-Prescribed Pharmaceutical Stimulants

The per cent of participants reporting any recent non-prescribed pharmaceutical stimulant (e.g., dexamphetamine, modafinil, methylphenidate) use has generally increased since the commencement of monitoring, from 19% in 2007 to 37% in 2025 (36% in 2024), signifying the second highest percentage of use since monitoring commenced. Frequency of use remained stable, with participants reporting a median of six days in 2025 (6 days in 2024).

## Cocaine

Use of cocaine has increased over the course of monitoring. In 2025, three quarters (75%) reported recent use, stable from 77% in 2024. Powder cocaine remained the most commonly reported form used (94%; 97% in 2024), with snorting remaining the most common route of administration (92%; 97% in 2024). Perceived price, purity and availability of cocaine remained stable between 2024 and 2025.

## Cannabis and Related Products

Recent use of non-prescribed cannabis and/or cannabinoid-related products remained stable in 2025 (72%), relative to 2024 (69%). Forty-five per cent of those who had recently used non-prescribed cannabis and/or cannabinoid-related products reported daily use (32% in 2024). Hydroponic cannabis was the most used form of non-prescribed cannabis in 2025 (73%; 75% in 2024), followed by bush cannabis (61%; 68% in 2024). Price per ounce of hydroponic cannabis decreased significantly in 2025 (\$265; \$300 in 2024;  $p=0.046$ ), with price remaining stable for all other measures of hydroponic and bush cannabis. The availability of bush cannabis significantly differed between 2024 and 2025, with four fifths (80%) reporting bush to be 'very easy' to obtain (45% in 2024;  $p=0.008$ ). All participants reported hydroponic cannabis as being 'very easy' or 'easy' to obtain in 2025.

## Ketamine, LSD and DMT

The per cent of participants reporting recent use of non-prescribed ketamine remained stable in 2025 (40%; 30% in 2024), with frequency of use remaining stable at a median of 3 days. Perceived purity of ketamine differed significantly between 2024 and 2025, with 88% perceiving purity to be 'high' (40% in 2024). Recent use of LSD (40%; 32% in 2024) and DMT (13%; 13% in 2024) remained stable in 2025. Perceived price, purity and availability

of non-prescribed ketamine and LSD remained stable between 2024 and 2025.

## New Psychoactive Substances (NPS)

Use of any NPS (including plant-based NPS) has remained low in recent years. In 2025, one tenth (10%) reported recent use ( $n \leq 5$  in 2022, 2023 and 2024), the highest per cent reporting since 2021.

## Other Drugs

Most other drugs remained stable between 2024 and 2025. Recent alcohol (88%; 92% in 2024) and tobacco (76%; 77% in 2024) use remained high and stable. Three fifths (63%) of participants who had recently used tobacco reported daily use (57% in 2024). Forty-seven per cent reported recent use of smoked or non-smoked illicit tobacco products in 2025, a significant increase relative to 2024 (25%;  $p=0.006$ ).

Three fifths of the sample (60%) reported using illicit e-cigarettes in 2025 (57% in 2024), the highest percentage observed since the commencement of monitoring. A median frequency of 180 days of illicit use was reported in 2025, a significant increase from 66 days in 2024 ( $p=0.018$ ). Fifty-four per cent of participants who had recently used illicit e-cigarettes reported daily use, stable relative to 40% in 2024.

## Drug-Related Harms and Other Behaviours

### *Polysubstance use and bingeing*

Four fifths (79%) of the Hobart sample reported concurrent use of two or more drugs on the last occasion of ecstasy or related drug use, most commonly combining stimulants and depressants (31%).

Almost half (48%) of participants reported using stimulants for 48 hours or more continuously without sleep in the six months preceding interview, the highest percentage since monitoring commenced.

### **Dependence, overdose and injecting**

Seventy-three per cent of the sample obtained an AUDIT score indicative of hazardous alcohol use (8+; 84% in 2024).

One fifth (20%) of those recently using ecstasy use obtained an SDS indicative of risk of dependence (3+: 22% in 2024); while 36% of those who recently used methamphetamine reported scores in this range (4+; 52% in 2024).

Past year reports of non-fatal stimulant (25%; 35% in 2024) and depressant overdose (21%; 31% in 2024) remained stable in 2025.

One tenth (11%) reported they had injected a drug in the past month, a significant increase from 2024 ( $n \leq 5$  in 2024;  $p=0.022$ ).

### **Drug checking and naloxone awareness**

Thirty-six per cent of participants reported that they or someone else had tested the content and/or purity of their illicit drugs in the past year, stable from 24% in 2024, all via a personal testing kit.

In 2025, 63% reported that they had ever heard of naloxone (62% in 2024), of which 90% were able to correctly identify the purpose of naloxone (96% in 2024). Forty-four per cent of participants reported obtaining naloxone in their lifetime, a significant increase from 20% in 2024 ( $p=0.015$ ), with 39% having obtained in the past 12 months, also a significant increase ( $n \leq 5$  in 2024;  $p=0.001$ ).

### **Sexual activity, mental health and health service access**

Almost three quarters (73%) of the Hobart sample reported engaging in some form of sexual activity in the past four weeks (72% in 2024), of which 80% reported using alcohol and/or other drugs prior to or while engaging in sexual activity (78% in 2024). Sixteen per cent reported that their use of alcohol and/or other drugs impaired their ability to negotiate their wishes during sex (10% in 2024).

Fifty-four per cent of participants reported experiencing a mental health problem in the preceding six months (64% in 2024), with anxiety (69%) and depression (51%) most commonly reported. There was a significant decrease of participants who reported experiencing attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), with 20% reporting ADHD as a mental health problem in 2025 (38% in 2024;  $p=0.038$ ). One fifth (20%) of the sample reported a score of 30 or more on the K10, indicative of 'very high' psychological distress.

One fifth (22%) of participants reported accessing any health service for alcohol and/or drug support in the six months preceding interview, stable relative to 36% in 2024. Few participants ( $n \leq 5$ ) reported they were currently engaging in drug treatment (10% in 2024).

### **Driving, contact with police and modes of purchasing drugs**

Among recent drivers, one quarter (16%) reported driving while over the perceived legal limit of alcohol (15% in 2024), and 51% reported driving within three hours of consuming an illicit or non-prescribed drug in the six months preceding interview (37% in 2024).

Twelve per cent of participants reported being arrested in the past 12 months, with 24% reporting a drug-related encounter with police which did not result in arrest.

Face-to-face remained the most common way in which participants arranged the purchase of illicit or non-prescribed drugs in the 12 months preceding interview (65%; 73% in 2024). Two thirds (66%) of participants reported obtaining illicit drugs from a friend/relative/partner/colleague in 2025, stable from 77% in 2024.