Executive Summary

The Perth Western Australia (WA) EDRS comprises a sentinel sample of people who regularly use ecstasy and/or other illicit stimulants recruited via social media and via word-of mouth in Perth, WA. 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-June. Interviews from 2020 onwards were delivered face-to-face as well as via telephone, to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission; 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 Perth EDRS sample (N=100) was similar to the sample in 2024 and in previous years. Gender and age remained stable between 2024 and 2025, with 56% identifying as male (59% in 2024), and participants reporting a median age of 23 years (21 years in 2024). Two fifths (42%) reported being current students in 2025 (51% in 2024), while 57% held tertiary qualifications (40% in 2024; p=0.026). Half (47%) reported part time/casual employment, while one quarter (27%) reported full-time employment. Forty-six per cent of the sample reported residing in their parents/family home at the time of interview, while 43% reported living in a rental house/flat. Drug of choice remained stable between 2024 and 2025, with 32% nominating cannabis (29% in 2024) and 28% nominating ecstasy (28% in 2024). However, the drug used most in the month preceding interview significantly changed between 2024 and 2025 (p=0.001). Specifically, while cannabis remained the drug used most often (39%; 38% in 2024), fewer participants reported ecstasy (7%; 16% in 2024) and cocaine (n≤5; 8% in 2024) most often, while a higher per cent reported using alcohol (35%; 11% in 2024).

Non-Prescribed Ecstasy

Recent use (past 6 month) of any non-prescribed ecstasy remained stable in 2025 relative to 2024 (93%; 89%), as did frequency of use (8 days; 9 days in 2024). In 2025, there was a significant increase in the per cent reporting recent non-prescribed ecstasy crystal use (68%; 51% in 2024; p=0.021), whilst reported non-prescribed use of ecstasy capsules, pills, and powder remained stable (45%, 21%, and 25% respectively). The perceived purity and availability of non-prescribed ecstasy pills, capsules, crystal and powder also remained stable between 2024 and 2025, as did the price of pills, capsules, and powder. However, there was a significant decline in the price per gram of non-prescribed ecstasy crystal in 2025 ($278; $300 in 2024; p=0.049).

Methamphetamine

Recent use of any non-prescribed methamphetamine remained stable in 2025 (15%), relative to 2024 (9%), as did median days of recent use (15 days; 60 days in 2024). Crystal remained the most commonly reported form of methamphetamine used (13%; 8% in 2024), with few participants (n≤5) reporting use of powder and base in 2025 (n≤5 in 2024). The price and perceived purity and availability of methamphetamine crystal also remained stable between 2024 and 2025.

Non-Prescribed Pharmaceutical Stimulants

Recent use of non-prescribed pharmaceutical stimulants has doubled over monitoring years, from 43% in 2007 to 84% in 2025, representing the highest per cent observed since monitoring commenced but stable relative to 2024 (73%). Median days of use remained stable at 10 days (15 days in 2024). Dexamfetamine remained the most common form used (92%; 96% in

2024), followed by lisdexamfetamine (39%; 29% in 2024). Price and perceived availability remained stable between 2024 and 2025.

Cocaine

Recent use of cocaine has tripled since monitoring commenced, from 17% in 2003 to 60% in 2025, although it has stabilised in recent years (71% in 2024). Median days of recent use remained low and stable (2 days in 2025; 3 days in 2024), and few participants (n≤5) reported weekly or more frequent use in 2025 (n≤5 in 2024). All participants who had recently used cocaine reported using powder cocaine (100%; 97% in 2024). While perceived availability of cocaine also remained stable, there was a significant change in perceived purity between 2024 and 2025 (p=0.023) with few reporting 'high' purity (n≤5; 29% in 2024), and a greater percent reporting 'medium' (48%; 21% in 2024). The median price per gram of cocaine also significantly increased to $500 ($400 in 2024; p=0.005).

Cannabis and/or Cannabinoid-Related Products

Recent use of non-prescribed cannabis and/or cannabinoid-related products remained stable in 2025 (80%), relative to 2024 (77%). Among those who had recently used non-prescribed cannabis and/or cannabinoid-related products, one quarter reported daily use (26%; 25% in 2024). Hydroponic remained the most commonly reported form used (71%; 79% in 2024), followed by 'bush' (55%), which significantly increased relative to 2024 (34%; p=0.021). The price, perceived potency and perceived availability of hydroponic and bush cannabis remained stable between 2024 and 2025.

Non-Prescribed Ketamine, LSD and DMT

Recent use of non-prescribed ketamine (48%; 55% in 2024), LSD (30%; 33% in 2024) and DMT (17%; 11% in 2024) remained stable in 2025, relative to 2024. Median days of use remained low and stable for all three substances, ranging between two and four days in the six months preceding interview. Price, and perceived purity and perceived availability for ketamine and LSD also remained stable between 2024 and 2025.

New Psychoactive Substances (NPS)

Any NPS use, including plant-based NPS, has fluctuated over time. However, in 2025, few participants (n≤5) reported recent use, a significant decline relative to 2024 (17%; p=0.011) and the lowest per cent observed since monitoring commenced. Similar results were observed for any NPS use, excluding plant-based NPS (n≤5; 16% in 2024; p=0.019).

Other Drugs

Reported use of other drugs remained largely stable in 2025, relative to 2024. However, the per cent reporting weekly or more frequent alcohol use in the six months preceding interview significantly declined (62%; 77% in 2024: p=0.031). Additionally, one quarter (28%) of the Perth sample reported recent use of nitrous oxide in 2025, stable relative to 2024 (36%), but a steep decline from 70% in 2022. Tobacco use remained high and stable (74%; 70% in 2024), as did non-prescribed e-cigarettes (74%; 69% in 2024).

Drug-Related Harms and Other Behaviours

Polysubstance use and bingeing

The majority (91%; n=90) of the Perth sample reported concurrent use of two or more drugs on the last occasion of ecstasy or related drug use (excluding tobacco and e-cigarettes).

One quarter (26%) of the sample reported using stimulants or related drugs for 48 hours or more continuously without sleep in the six months preceding interview (26% in 2024).

Dependence, injecting and overdose

Almost three quarters (72%) of the Perth sample obtained a score of eight or more on the AUDIT, indicative of hazardous alcohol use (79% in 2024). One fifth (20%) of those who reported recent non-prescribed ecstasy use obtained an SDS score of 3 or more (18% in 2024), whilst few participants (n≤5) reporting recent methamphetamine use obtained a score of 4 or more (n≤5 in 2024), indicating possible dependence on these substances.

Past year non-fatal stimulant overdose remained stable in 2025 (18%; 18% in 2024), as did non-fatal depressant overdose (27%; 21% in 2024).

Past month injecting drug use remained low and stable in 2025 (6%; 7% in 2024).

Drug checking and naloxone

Two fifths (42%) of the Perth sample reported that they or someone else had tested the content and/or purity of their illicit drugs in Australia in the past year, a significant increase from 23% in 2024 (p=0.007).

Two thirds (69%) reported that they had ever heard of naloxone (63% in 2024), of which 86% were able to correctly identify the purpose of naloxone (92% in 2024) and 20% reported (ever) obtaining naloxone, a significant increase relative to 2024 (n≤5; p=0.009).

Sexual activity, mental health and health service access

Three quarters (77%) of the sample reported engaging in some form of sexual activity in the past four weeks (81% in 2024), of which 39% reported using drugs/alcohol to enhance it (31% in 2024). One quarter (28%) of the sample reported having a sexual health check-up in the past six months (22% in 2024), while 21% reported a recent HIV test (13% in 2024).

Two thirds (65%) reported experiencing a mental health problem in the six months preceding interview (63% in 2024), of which depression (59%) and anxiety (53%) were most commonly reported. One fifth (19%) of the sample scored in the 'very high' psychological distress category in 2025 (26% in 2024). There has been a doubling in the per cent of the Perth sample scoring in the 'high' or 'very high' categories between 2018 (24%) and 2025 (54%)

One fifth (22%) of the Perth sample reported accessing any health service for alcohol and/or drug support in the six months preceding interview (29% in 2024), and current drug treatment engagement remained low (n≤5; 7% in 2024).

Driving, contact with police and modes of purchasing drugs

Among recent drivers, one quarter (26%) reported driving while over the perceived legal limit of alcohol (39% in 2024), while 60% reported driving within three hours of consuming an illicit or non-prescribed drug in the prior six months (51% in 2024).

Fourty six per cent of the Perth sample reported 'any' crime in the past month (37% in 2024), with property crime (26%; 23% in 2024) and drug dealing (24%; 17% in 2024) being the two main forms of criminal activity reported. Six per cent of the sample reported a past year arrest (8% in 2024), and 8% reported a drug-related encounter with police which did not result in charge or arrest (9% in 2024).

Face-to-face and social networking apps remained the most common means of arranging the purchase of illicit or non-prescribed drugs in the 12 months preceding interview (each 78%). The majority (85%) of participants reported obtaining illicit drugs from a friend/relative/partner/colleague (86% in 2024), while 64% reported obtaining from a known dealer (44% in 2024; p=0.011).