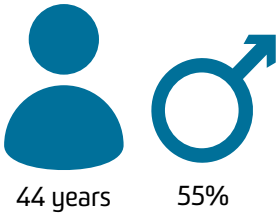
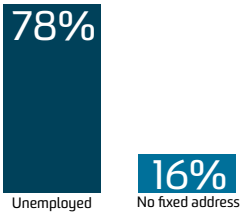
IDRS Illicit Drug Reporting System

2022 SAMPLE CHARACTERISTICS

In 2022, 100 participants, recruited from Perth, WA, were interviewed.



The mean age in 2022 was 44, and 55% identified as male.

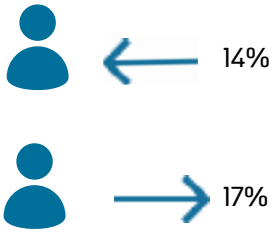


In the 2022 sample, 78% were unemployed and 16% had no fixed address.

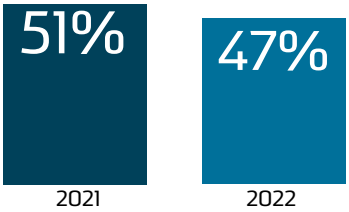
- Injected heroin
- Injected methamphetamine
- Injected other illicit or non-prescribed drugs

Participants were recruited on the basis that they had injected drugs at least monthly in the previous 6 months.

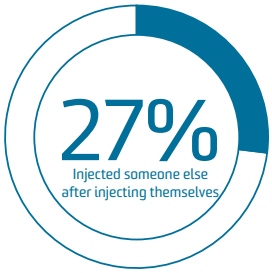
INJECTING RELATED RISKS AND HARMS



In 2022, 14% of participants reported receptive sharing in the past month and 17% reported distributive sharing.



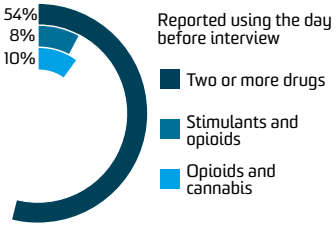
47% of participants reported re-using their own needles in the past month, stable relative to 2021 (51%).



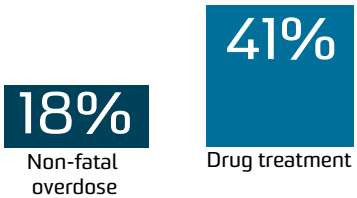
27% of participants reported injecting someone else after injecting themselves in the past month, stable from 2021 (36%).

31% of participants reported having an injection-related health issue in the past month, stable from 2021 (33%).

OTHER HARMS AND HELP-SEEKING

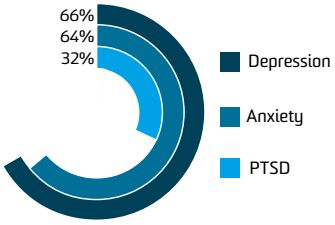


The most common patterns of poly substance use on the day preceding interview were stimulants and opioids, and opioids and cannabis.



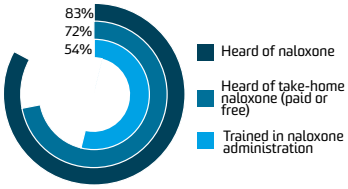
Past year non-fatal overdose (18%) and past 6-month drug treatment (41%) remained stable in 2022 relative to 2021.

In 2022, 46% of participants reported a mental health problem in the 6 months preceding interview, and 30% had seen a mental health professional.



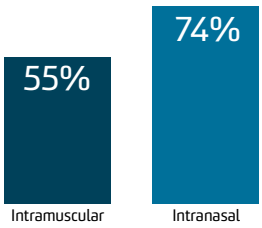
Among those who reported a mental health problem, the three most common mental health issues were depression, anxiety and PTSD.

NALOXONE AND HARM REDUCTION



Knowledge of naloxone and take-home naloxone programs remained high and stable in 2022, however fewer participants reported ever being trained in naloxone administration.

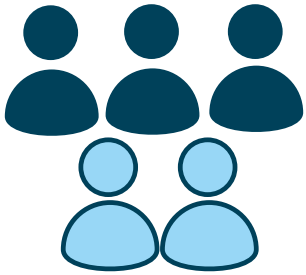
Nearly one-third (29%) of the sample reported using naloxone to resuscitate someone who had overdosed at least once in their lifetime.



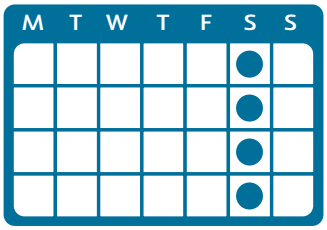
Of those who reported ever accessing naloxone, 74% of participants reported receiving intranasal naloxone on the last occasion of access.

In 2022, 9% of the sample reported that they or someone else had tested the content and/or purity of their illicit drugs in Australia in the past year.

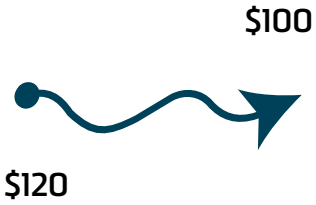
HEROIN



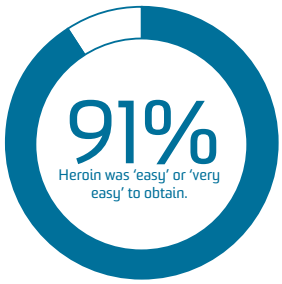
Past 6 month use of heroin remained stable in 2022 (60%) relative to 2021 (61%).



Of those who had recently consumed heroin, 81% reported weekly or more frequent use, stable from 2021 (82%).

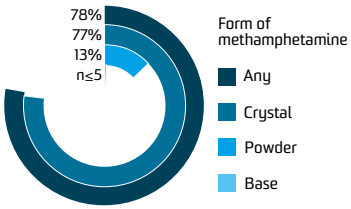


The median reported price for a point of heroin was $100 in 2022, stable compared to $120 in 2021.

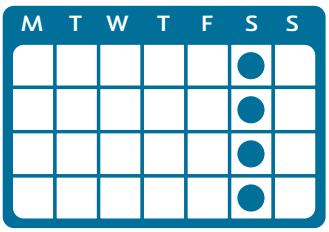


Of those who could comment, 91% perceived heroin to be 'easy' or 'very easy' to obtain, stable from 2021 (95%).

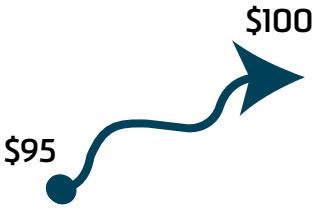
METHAMPHETAMINE



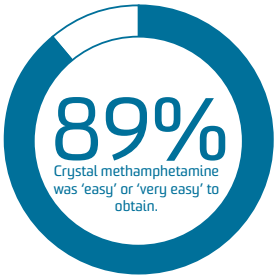
Past 6 month use of all forms of methamphetamine remained stable in 2022 relative to 2021.



Of those who had recently used any form of methamphetamine, 70% reported weekly or more frequent use, stable from 2021 (73%).



In 2022, the median reported price for a point of crystal methamphetamine increased to $100 ($95 in 2021).



Of those who could comment, 89% perceived crystal methamphetamine to be 'easy' or 'very easy' to obtain in 2022, stable from 2021 (83%).

OTHER DRUGS

Non-prescribed morphine

Past 6 month use of non-prescribed morphine remained stable between 2021 and 2022.

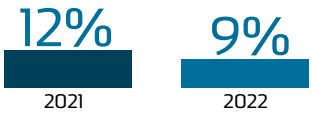
Non-prescribed fentanyl

Past 6 month use of non-prescribed fentanyl remained stable between 2021 and 2022.

Non-prescribed pregabalin

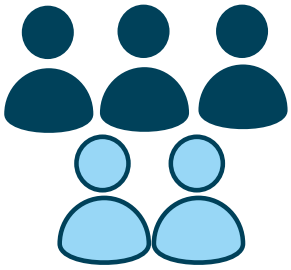
Past 6 month use of non-prescribed pregabalin remained stable between 2021 and 2022.

GHB/GBL/1,4-BD

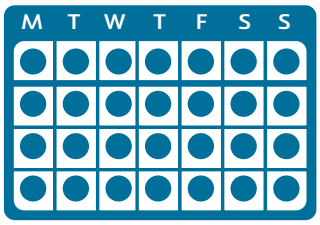


Past 6 month use of GHB/GBL/1,4-BD remained stable between 2021 and 2022.

CANNABIS AND/OR CANNABINOID RELATED PRODUCTS

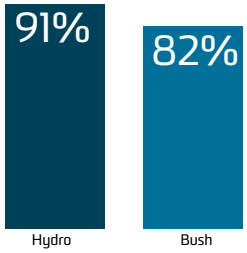


Past 6 month use of non-prescribed cannabis and/or cannabinoid related products remained stable in 2022 (60%) relative to 2021 (69%).



Of those who had recently used non-prescribed cannabis and/or cannabinoid related products, half reported daily use (45%), stable from 2021 (46%).

Of participants who had consumed non-prescribed cannabis and/or cannabinoid related products in the last 6 months, everyone had smoked it.



Of those who could comment, the majority perceived both hydro and bush to be 'easy' or 'very easy' to obtain.