

AUSTRALIAN DRUG TRENDS 2017
FINDINGS FROM THE
ECSTASY AND RELATED DRUGS REPORTING SYSTEM (EDRS)



PRELIMINARY FINDINGS

The Ecstasy and related Drugs Reporting System (EDRS) is a national illicit drug monitoring system intended to identify emerging trends of local and national concern in ecstasy and related drug markets.

Each year we interview a sample of people who have experience with and use psychostimulants. To be in the survey, someone must have used psychostimulants (which includes ecstasy, methamphetamine, cocaine, and new psychoactive substance (NPS) type stimulants such as mephedrone and 2C-B) at least six times in the last six months. We only talk to people from urban areas, so the results do not tell us about psychostimulant use in regional or rural areas of Australia. Because we conduct this survey annually, we can see what's changed over time – the preferred drug of choice, the types of drugs being used, the patterns of drug use, and perceptions about the drug market.

It is important to note that the results from the consumer surveys are not representative of ecstasy and other related drug use in the general population, but this is *not* the aim of these data. These data are intended to capture emerging issues that warrant further investigation.

This document summarises the preliminary 2017 EDRS findings. Results may be subject to minor change. Final figures will appear in the 2017 national and jurisdictional reports, to be released early next year. Previous years' data are available in reports published elsewhere, and are accessible on the Drug Trends website <http://www.drugtrends.org.au/>.

The first section provides a narrative overview of the preliminary findings. This is then followed by detailed tables.

OVERVIEW

Demographics

- We have been surveying people every year nationally since 2003. To be in the survey, someone must have used psychostimulants at least six times in the last six months. This year, the people we interviewed were younger (21 vs. 23 years of age; $p<0.01$) and with lower levels of education (percent who completed tertiary degree: 36% vs. 44%; $p<0.01$) compared to those we interviewed last year (see Table 1). As we present only preliminary statistical testing we have not accounted for these differences in the results presented below.

Drug of choice and frequency of stimulant use

- Drug of choice: Ecstasy was the preferred drug of choice by 36% of the sample (Table 2). This year however, more people chose cannabis as their drug of choice compared to last year (28% vs. 21% in 2016; $p<0.01$). At the same time, fewer people chose crystal methamphetamine (1% vs. 4% in 2016; $p<0.01$) or alcohol (11% vs. 15% in 2016; $p<0.05$) as their preferred drug of choice.
- Drug use: Regular use of psychostimulants was frequently reported by respondents in 2017, with 42% of the sample reporting weekly or more frequent use of these substances in the month preceding interview (with no change from 2016, at 41% see Table 2). One-third of the sample reported fortnightly use of these substances (36% vs. 37% in 2016), and one-fifth reported monthly use (18% vs. 19% in 2016). It is the group of people using weekly or more who may be more at risk of experiencing harms from their use.

Ecstasy

- Ecstasy is the preferred drug of choice amongst this sample, and is used on average approximately once a fortnight (Table 5, median of 14 days). Approximately one-third of the people who reported using ecstasy used it weekly or more (30%; stable from 2016, Figure 4) although there was a significant decrease in the percentage who scored ≥ 3 or more on the severity of dependence scale (indicating problematic dependent ecstasy use, see Table 48).
- The ecstasy market continued to diversify in 2017: pills remained the most common form used in the past six months (78% in 2017), however there were significant increases in the use of other forms as well. For example, recent use of MDMA crystal (67% in 2017 vs. 57% in 2016; $p<0.01$), capsules (71% in 2017 vs. 60% in 2016; $p<0.01$) and powder (30% vs. 21% in 2016; $p<0.01$) all increased (see Table 4). It appears that people who use ecstasy are using multiple forms. Some forms may be more harmful than others – crystal ecstasy is generally of higher purity than ecstasy tablets and it is also perceived to be of higher purity among participants interviewed (50% rated crystal purity as high, compared to 34% who rated capsules and 18% who rated pills as high perceived purity, see Table 8-Table 11).
- Ecstasy market perceptions: market perceptions varied across the different forms of ecstasy. While the perceived availability, purity and price of MDMA crystal remained relatively stable in 2017, there were significant declines in the percentages of the sample who reported that ecstasy pills (50% vs. 57% in 2016; $p<0.05$) and powder (30% vs 61% in 2016; $p<0.01$) were 'very easy' to obtain and an increase in the percentage of the sample reporting ecstasy powder as 'difficult' to obtain (27% vs. 3% in 2016; $p<0.01$). For ecstasy capsules, there was a significant decrease in the percentage of the sample who reported that purity had 'fluctuated' over the preceding six months (18% vs 25% in 2016; $p<0.05$). These indicators support the diversification of the ecstasy market with more potent forms being more readily available.

Cocaine

- Cocaine was the next most commonly used stimulant drug among our sample (48%; stable from 2016, Table 24). However, frequency of use was generally very low, with consumers reporting use on

a median of three days in the past six months, and a minority (6%) reporting weekly or more frequent use.

Methamphetamine

- Past six month use of 'any' methamphetamine declined significantly in 2017 (31% vs. 38% in 2016; $p < 0.01$; see Table 16), which was driven by a decrease in the use of the crystal methamphetamine form (13% in 2017 vs. 19% in 2016; $p < 0.01$; Table 19). The percentages of the sample reporting use of speed and base remained stable at 22% and 3% respectively. Approximately one-tenth (12%) of those who reported recent methamphetamine use reported using it weekly or more often, which was a significant decrease from 2016 (19%; $p < 0.05$; see Figure 7).
- Perceptions of the methamphetamine market: There was a significant increase in the percentage of the sample reporting the perceived purity of crystal methamphetamine as 'low' (18% vs 2% in 2016; $p < 0.01$; see Table 22) which may be one of the factors contributing to fewer people in the sample using the crystal form of methamphetamine in 2017. However other aspects of the methamphetamine market, such as the reported price paid, and perceived availability have not changed between 2016 and 2017.

New psychoactive substances (NPS)

- Reported use of the group of drugs known as new psychoactive substances (e.g. DMT, 2C-B, NBOMe, mephedrone) remained relatively stable in 2017, with 33% reporting recent use of 'any' NPS in the past six months (see Table 14). Use of synthetic cannabinoids (one type of NPS) remained infrequent, with 2% of the sample reporting use in the past six months. This is consistent with reports, both from this study and others, that synthetic cannabinoids do not produce the kinds of effects that people are seeking. It is also important to note that despite a greater percentage of the sample preferring cannabis in 2017, this has had no impact on rates of synthetic cannabinoid use.
- Although NPS use has been established as an ongoing practice amongst our sample, it is important to note that most use is infrequent with participants reporting use on a median of 1-2 days in the six months preceding interview (see Table 15).

Other drug use

- This sample uses many different classes of substances, including hallucinogenic and dissociative drugs. These are drugs that alter perception and/or produce feelings of detachment and include magic mushrooms, LSD, ketamine and DMT. Our findings suggest a trend in increasing use of these substances. For example, in 2017 half of the sample reported recent (past six month) use of LSD; although stable from 2016, this represents an upward trend over time (in 2003 it was 28% of the sample, see Table 35). In addition, there were increases in the recent use of ketamine (37% vs. % 26% in 2016; $p < 0.01$; Table 28) and magic mushrooms (27% vs. 22% in 2016; $p < 0.05$; Table 43). However, in each case, the frequency of use remains low (approximately 2-3 days out of the last six months for each of these three drugs) and with very few consumers reporting weekly or more frequent use.
- Most of our participants reported recent use of cannabis (89% vs. 86% in 2016; $p < 0.05$; see Table 39), with the majority of consumers reporting weekly or more frequent use (68%) and a sizeable minority reporting daily use (24%).

Drug-related risk behaviours

- The percentage of the sample who reported past 12-month stimulant overdose increased in 2017 (26% vs 19% in 2016; $p < 0.01$; see Table 45), as did the percentage of the sample who reported past 12-month depressant overdose (17% vs 14% in 2016; $p < 0.05$). Among those who had overdosed, most participants attributed their stimulant overdose to ecstasy (58%), whilst most attributed their depressant overdose to alcohol (77%).

- While most of the sample reported less than weekly drug use, there are attendant risks from psychostimulant use, especially given the breadth and depth of psychostimulant use experiences in this sample. One risk is consuming drugs of unknown contents, reports of which increased in 2017 (20% vs. 14% in 2016; $p < 0.01$; see Table 43).
- Bingeing (i.e. continuous use for 48 hours or more without sleep) remained relatively common in 2017, with 33% of the sample reporting that they had binged on a stimulant drug in the past six months (Table 2).
- Other risks associated with psychostimulant use include risky sexual behaviours and we found an increase in the percentage of the sample who reported having penetrative sex with a casual partner while under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol in the past six months (63% vs. 55% in 2016; $p < 0.01$; Table 46), as well as a significant increase in those who did not use protection (i.e. condoms/gloves/dams) on their last occasion of sex (51% vs. 44% in 2016; $p < 0.05$).
- Mental health problems were frequently reported by respondents (46% vs. 38% in 2016; $p < 0.01$; see Table 49).

KEY FINDINGS FROM THE 2017 EDRS

Definitions:

Recent use - used in the last 6 months (includes smoking, snorting, swallowing, shafting and injecting as routes of administration).

* **Significant change** ($p < 0.05$) from previous year (2016) compared with current year (2017).

** **Significant change** ($p < 0.01$) from previous year (2016) compared with current year (2017).

Note: Due to conducting multiple tests, a significance value of $p < 0.01$ offers a more conservative measure.

Guide to median days of use

Throughout this document, median days of drug use (in the preceding six months) 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

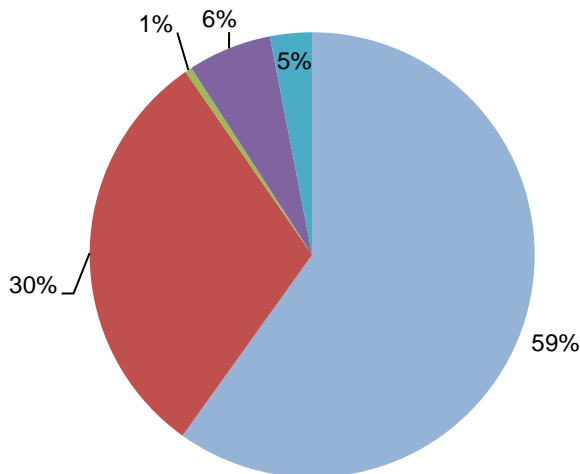
Note: due to rounding of percentages or multiple responses, some columns may not add to 100%.

Unlike other jurisdictions, from 2013-2015 no restrictions were placed on the length of time participants had resided in the NT due to the transient nature of Darwin residents. NT participants had to have purchased in Darwin to be included in the national dataset.

PARTICIPANT RECRUITMENT 2017

- 14% of participants nationally reported that they had completed the EDRS survey in a previous year.
- One participant nationally reported that they had completed the IDRS survey in a previous year.
- Participants were primarily recruited through internet advertisements and word of mouth (snowballing).

■ internet ■ word of mouth ■ street press ■ fliers ■ other



Internet websites where participants were recruited: Facebook (56% of entire sample) and other (2% of entire sample).

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

Table 1: Demographic characteristics of EDRS participants, 2016-2017

	National N=795	National N=786	NSW n=100	ACT n=100	VIC n=100	TAS n=100	SA n=100	WA n=100	NT n=86	QLD n=100
	2016	2017								
Mean age (years)	23	21**	21	21	21	23	21	20	23	20
% Male	61	64	69	64	57	65	60	69	64	62
% English speaking background	96	97	96	94	94	100	98	98	95	99
% Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	4	3	1	1	0	1	4	1	17	4
% Heterosexual	88	84*	81	82	79	85	87	87	88	83
% Tertiary qualifications#	44	36**	37	27	42	40	40	30	49	25
% Employed full-time	24	19*	19	12	16	21	18	24	35	13
% Students##	39	34*	15	17	49	36	52	40	8	49
Mean income per week	(N=755) \$588	(N=757) \$660*	(n=96) \$564	(n=100) \$950	(n=95) \$435	(n=98) \$486	(n=98) \$1118	(n=94) \$457	(n=82) \$826	(n=94) \$439
% Currently in drug treatment	2	3	3	1	1	7	6	4	1	4

Source: EDRS participant interviews

includes trade/technical and university/college

includes full-time students, part-time students, work/study

DRUG USE

Table 2: Drug of choice, frequency of use and bingeing behaviours among EDRS participants, 2016-2017

	National N=795	National N=786	NSW n=100	ACT n=100	VIC n=100	TAS n=100	SA n=100	WA n=100	NT n=86	QLD n=100
% Drug of choice	2016	2017								
Ecstasy	36	36	32	29	40	31	43	51	34	25
Cannabis	21	28**	31	23	24	27	24	23	36	34
Alcohol	15	11*	5	13	4	15	7	18	9	16
Cocaine	8	6	6	8	3	6	3	1	12	10
LSD	7	9	13	15	11	10	7	4	5	6
Crystal meth	4	1**	1	0	0	3	2	1	1	1
Speed	2	<1	0	0	5	1	0	0	0	0
Heroin	<1	<1	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	1
Other opiates	<1	<1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
Base	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mushrooms	2	2	4	3	2	2	3	0	0	3
Ketamine	1	2	2	4	5	1	4	0	0	2
GHB^	<1	<1	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Pharm Stimulant#	<1	<1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MDA	<1	<1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
Benzodiazepines#	<1	1	0	1	1	1	5	1	0	0
Nitrous oxide	0	<1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
NPS	<1	<1	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	0
Other drugs	<1	<1	0	3	1	0	0	0	2	0
% Frequency of stimulant use in past month										
No use	4	5	9	6	7	7	1	2	4	2
Monthly	19	18	20	15	11	20	19	15	19	21
Fortnightly	37	36	32	36	23	37	38	42	44	33
Weekly or more	41	42	39	43	59	36	42	40	34	44
% Binged^^ on any stimulant last 6 months	37	33	33	25	30	25	41	29	44	35

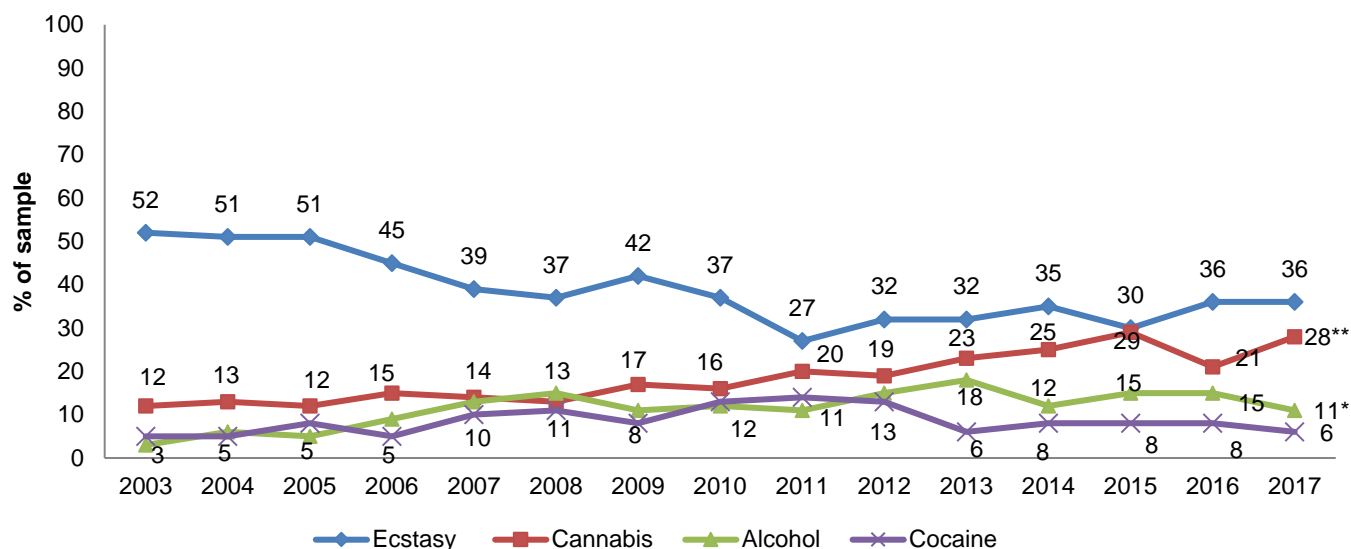
Source: EDRS participant interviews

Includes licitly and illicitly obtained pharmaceutical stimulants and benzodiazepines.

^ includes GHB, GBL and 1,4B.

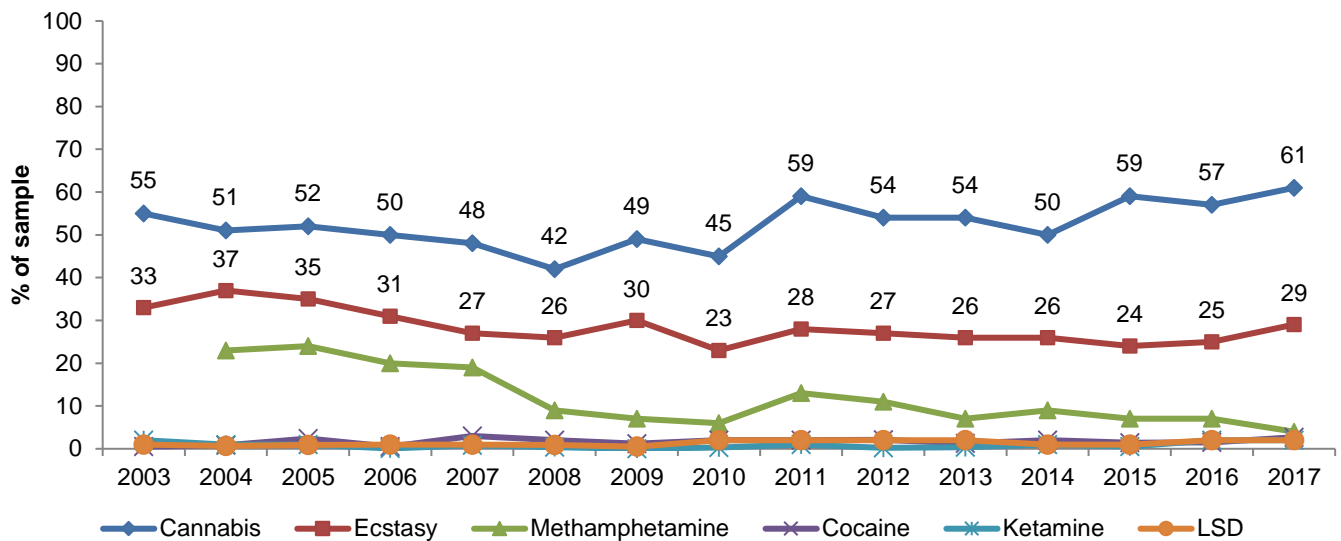
^^ Bingeing is defined as continuous use for 48 hours or more without sleep.

Figure 1: Drug of choice for EDRS participants, nationally, 2003-2017



Source: EDRS participant interviews

Figure 2: Weekly or more use of cannabis, ecstasy, methamphetamine, cocaine, ketamine and LSD (in the last six months) among the entire sample, nationally, 2003-2017



Source: EDRS participant interviews
 Note: data regarding frequency of 'any' methamphetamine use not collected in 2003

ONLINE PURCHASING

Table 3: Online purchasing patterns, 2016-2017

%	National (N=795)	National (N=784)	NSW (n=100)	ACT (n=100)	VIC (n=100)	TAS (n=100)	SA (n=100)	WA (n=99)	NT (n=85)	QLD (n=100)
	2016	2017								
Ever purchased a drug online	18	22	25	24	11	21	27	20	26	23
Past year purchased a drug online	14	16	18	19	7	13	22	18	15	18

Source: EDRS participant interviews
 Note: Online purchasing is predominantly on the 'darknet'.

ECSTASY

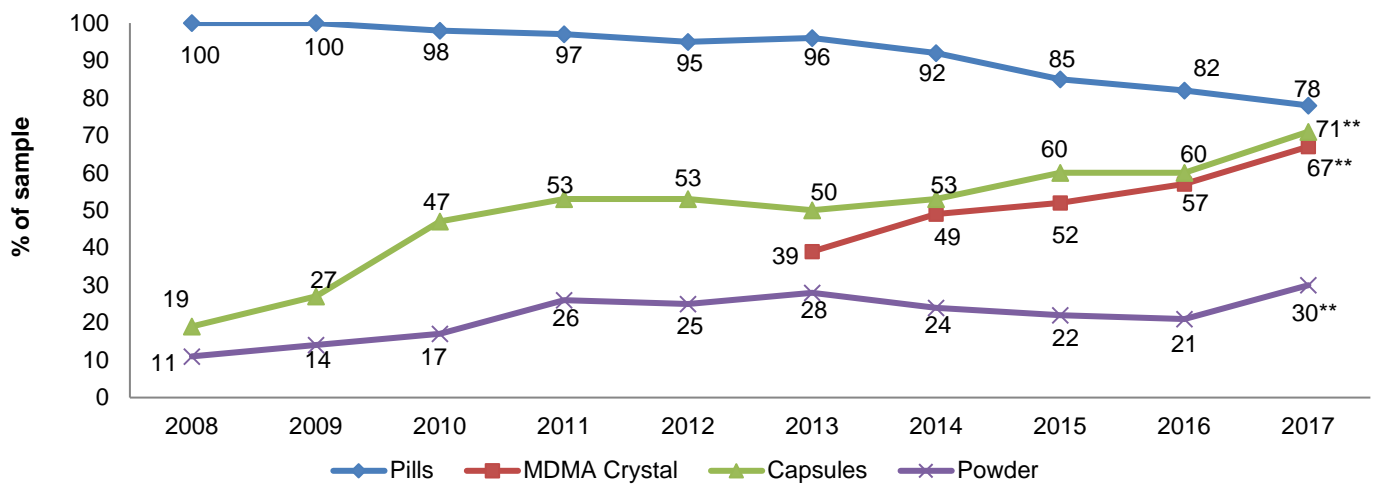
Ecstasy use among EDRS participants

Table 4. Forms of ecstasy used in the last six months among EDRS participants, 2016-2017

%	National N=795	National N=786	NSW n=100	ACT n=100	VIC n=100	TAS n=100	SA n=100	WA n=100	NT n=86	QLD n=100
	2016	2017								
Ecstasy pills (tablets)	82	78	42	79	83	93	71	93	86	78
Ecstasy/MDMA crystals	57	67**	75	75	43	47	69	78	71	78
Ecstasy capsules (caps)	60	71**	76	67	90	60	81	61	57	72
Ecstasy/MDMA powder	21	30**	21	32	34	24	44	36	20	28
Any Ecstasy	100	99	100	100	98	100	99	100	99	98

Source: EDRS participant interviews

Figure 3: Forms of ecstasy used in the last six months, nationally, 2008-2017



Source: EDRS participant interviews
 Note: Data collection for MDMA crystal started in 2013.

Table 5: Patterns of ecstasy use among EDRS participants, 2016-2017

	National N=795	National N=768	NSW n=100	ACT n=100	VIC n=100	TAS n=100	SA n=100	WA n=100	NT n=100	QLD n=92
	2016	2017								
Median days used ecstasy last six months#	13 (1-113)	14 (1-160)	10 (1-90)	11 (1-153)	15 (1-96)	13 (2-100)	18 (1-160)	15 (1-102)	12 (1-122)	16 (1-84)
% Use ecstasy weekly or more#	25	30	27	28	29	21	40	39	21	36
Median tablets/pills in 'average' session	2 (0.5-17)	2 (0.5-40)	2 (1-12)	2 (0.5-10)	2 (1-15)	2 (1-5)	2.5 (1-30)	3 (1-10)	2 (1-10)	2 (1-40)
% Typically use >2 tablets/pills	29	33	46	20	30	16	54	60	25	27
Median capsules in 'average' session	2 (1-10)	2 (0.5-30)	3 (1-10)	2 (0.5-12)	2 (1-15)	2 (1-5)	2 (1-30)	2 (1-12)	1 (1-10)	2 (0.5-5)
Median MDMA crystals (caps) in 'average' session	2 (0.1-9)	2 (0.5-45)	2 (0.5-45)	2 (1-4)	1^ (1-3)	2^ (1-2)	3^ (2-20)	2 (1-10)	1.25 (0.5-4)	2 (0.5-3)

Source: EDRS participant interviews
 # Includes pills, powder, capsules and MDMA crystals. Maximum number of days, i.e. daily use = 180.

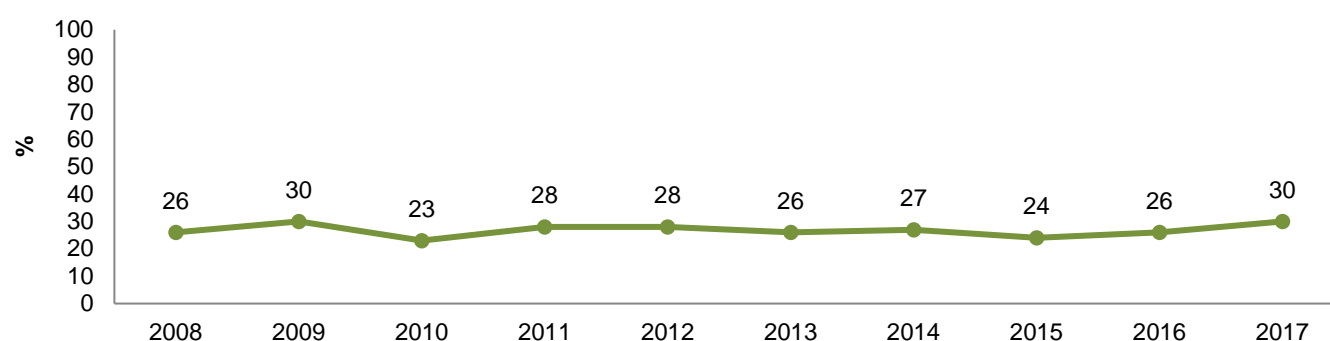
Table 6. Median days of ecstasy[#] use in the preceding six months, 2003-2017

Median days	Pills	Powder	Capsules	MDMA crystal	Any ecstasy ^{##}
2003	12 (6-105)	-	-	-	12 (6-105)
2004	15 (6-180)	-	-	-	15 (6-180)
2005	15 (5-120)	2 (1-30)	-	-	15 (6-120)
2006	12 (4-120)	2 (1-78)	-	-	13 (3-120)
2007	12 (2-145)	2 (1-24)	-	-	12 (2-145)
2008	12 (1-96)	3 (1-60)	2 (1-32)	-	12 (3-96)
2009	12 (1-96)	2 (1-48)	2 (1-72)	-	13 (3-96)
2010	12 (1-180)	3 (1-24)	3 (1-72)	-	12 (1-180)
2011	12 (1-96)	4 (1-48)	4 (1-120)	-	12 (3-150)
2012	12 (1-120)	4 (1-50)	4 (1-140)	-	13 (1-140)
2013	11 (1-90)	3 (1-60)	3 (1-120)	3 (1-50)	12 (1-120)
2014	10 (1-180)	4 (1-72)	4 (1-72)	5 (1-72)	13 (1-180)
2015	10 (1-110)	4 (1-180)	5 (1-60)	5 (1-180)	12 (1-180)
2016	10 (1-72)	4 (1-72)	5 (1-96)	6 (1-96)	13 (1-113)
2017	8 (1-96)	5 (1-72)	6 (1-96)	6 (1-90)	14 (1-160)

Source: EDRS participant interviews

[#] Among those who had used in the last 6 months. Maximum number of days, i.e. daily use = 180.

^{##} Includes pills only in 2003-2004; ecstasy pills and powder from 2005-2007; ecstasy pills, powder and capsules from 2008-2013; ecstasy pills, powder, capsules and MDMA crystal from 2013-2017.

Figure 4: Weekly or more ecstasy use, among those who had used ecstasy in the last six months, 2008-2017

Source: EDRS participant interviews

Note: this includes ecstasy pills, powder and capsules between 2008 and 2012 and MDMA crystals from 2013 onwards.

Table 7. Last location of ecstasy use (any form) while intoxicated, 2016-2017

% Location	National		NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
	N=721	N=777	n=71	n=95	n=95	n=95	n=98	n=98	n=92	n=78
	2016	2017								
Nightclubs	44	42	22	39	60	39	58	35	37	45
Live music event	10	13	18	12	6	7	4	26	13	13
Raves[#]	4	7	17	8	9	4	4	4	1	5
Private parties	15	7	12	5	9	11	4	4	4	6
Friend's home	8	10	10	11	4	13	8	14	13	10
At own home	9	10	11	11	8	7	9	9	14	11
Pubs	8	6	4	5	0	16	6	5	5	5
Outdoors	2	2	1	2	0	1	6	1	5	2
Public place	1	2	4	2	2	1	1	1	2	1
Other	0	1	1	3	1	1	0	1	4	0

Source: EDRS participant interviews

[#]includes 'doofs' and dance parties.

Perceived availability, purity and price

Table 8. Current perceived availability and purity of ecstasy pills, 2016-2017

	National		NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
	2016	2017								
% Current availability (n)	(N=472)	(N=576)	(n=42)	(n=70)	(n=55)	(n=96)	(n=66)	(n=95)	(n=73)	(n=79)
Very easy	57	50*	31	51	58	46	58	58	43	51
Easy	36	38	36	34	33	43	38	38	40	42
Difficult	7	10	26	13	9	12	5	3	16	8
Very difficult	<1	1	7	1	0	0	0	1	1	0
% Current purity (n)	(N=470)	(N=566)	(n=43)	(n=69)	(n=54)	(n=91)	(n=65)	(n=95)	(n=71)	(n=78)
Low	17	17	12	13	13	19	35	15	14	14
Medium	34	37	23	38	37	39	34	28	41	50
High	19	18	14	29	22	4	14	21	31	13
Fluctuates	31	28	51	20	28	39	17	36	14	23

Source: EDRS participant interviews

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

Table 9. Current perceived availability and purity of ecstasy capsules, 2016-2017

	National		NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
	2016	2017								
% Current availability (n)	N=223	(N=567)	(n=76)	(n=79)	(n=73)	(n=60)	(n=76)	(n=72)	(n=53)	(n=78)
Very easy	49	43	63	52	44	20	50	25	32	45
Easy	43	43	28	41	47	55	32	58	51	42
Difficult	7	13	9	6	10	23	17	15	15	12
Very difficult	0	1	0	1	0	2	1	1	2	1
% Current purity (n)	N=215	(N=563)	(n=74)	(n=77)	(n=73)	(n=58)	(n=77)	(n=72)	(n=54)	(n=78)
Low	10	11	14	16	18	19	1	7	9	8
Medium	31	37	30	46	27	47	31	36	41	39
High	34	34	15	25	27	19	56	44	43	42
Fluctuates	25	18*	42	14	27	16	12	13	7	12

Source: EDRS participant interviews

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

Table 10. Current perceived availability and purity of ecstasy powder, 2016-2017

	National		NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
	2016	2017								
% Current availability (n)	(N=31)	(N=122)	(n=9)	(n=14)	(n=7)	(n=15)	(n=27)	(n=25)	(n=7)	(n=18)
Very easy	61	30**	-	36	-	20	41	32	-	28
Easy	36	40	-	43	-	53	26	36	-	39
Difficult	3	27**	-	14	-	27	30	28	-	33
Very difficult	0	3	-	7	-	0	4	4	-	0
% Current purity (n)	(N=30)	(N=122)	(n=8)	(n=14)	(n=7)	(n=16)	(n=26)	(n=26)	(n=7)	(n=18)
Low	0	14	-	14	-	19	8	15	-	11
Medium	33	51	-	64	-	69	58	42	-	33
High	47	27	-	21	-	6	31	31	-	39
Fluctuates	20	8	-	0	-	6	4	12	-	17

Source: EDRS participant interviews

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

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

Table 11. Current perceived availability and purity of MDMA crystal/rock, 2016-2017

%	National		NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
	2016	2017								
% Current availability (n)	(N=352)	(N=433)	(n=61)	(n=60)	(n=21)	(n=37)	(n=64)	(n=65)	(n=62)	(n=63)
Very easy	36	38	48	35	33	14	48	43	34	33
Easy	47	40	41	57	33	41	31	35	39	43
Difficult	15	20	12	8	29	35	19	22	23	22
Very difficult	1	2	0	0	5	11	2	0	5	2
% Current purity (n)	(N=348)	(N=430)	(n=61)	(n=61)	(n=21)	(n=35)	(n=63)	(n=65)	(n=62)	(n=62)
Low	3	5	5	5	19	3	3	6	0	5
Medium	29	30	26	46	29	20	24	22	36	34
High	54	50	30	39	43	63	60	60	61	45
Fluctuates	14	15	39	10	10	14	13	12	3	16

Source: EDRS participant interviews

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

Table 12. Median price of last ecstasy purchase per pill, 2003-2017

\$	National	NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
2003	35	35	35	30	50	35	40	50	35
2004	35	35	35	30	40	32.25	50	50	35
2005	35	30	35	30	45	30	40	50	32
2006	30	30	35	30	40	30	40	50	30
2007	30	30	30	30	40	30	40	50	30
2008	30	30	30	28	35	25	40	50	25
2009	25	20	25	25	35	20	35	50	20
2010	25	25	25	25	35	23	35	35	25
2011	30	25	30	25	30	20	30	35	25
2012	25	25	25	30	30	20	35	40^	25
2013	25	25	25	25	30	20	35	35	25
2014	25	25	25	25	30	20	35	40	25
2015	25	25	25	25	35	20	30	40	25
2016	25	25	25	22	30	15	25	35	25
2017	25	25	25	20	30	15	20	35	20

Source: EDRS participant interviews

Table 13. Median price of last MDMA crystal purchase, 2014-2017

\$	Gram	Cap
	Median (range; n)	Median (range; n)
2014	250 (30-600; 162)	30 (10-350; 142)
2015	250 (10-450; 139)	30 (17-50; 153)
2016	200 (20-800; 165)	25 (13-60; 157)
2017	200 (16-800; 228)	25 (10-50; 204)

Source: EDRS participant interviews

Note: price data for MDMA crystal first collected in 2014

NEW PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES (NPS) USE

Table 14. Percentage of the sample reporting use of any NPS in the six months prior to interview, 2016-2017

%	National		NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
	N=763	N=785	n=100	n=100	n=100	n=99	n=100	n=100	n=85	n=100
	2016	2017								
Use of any NPS (including synthetic cannabinoids)	34	33	36	35	38	17	38	32	29	38

Source: EDRS participant interviews

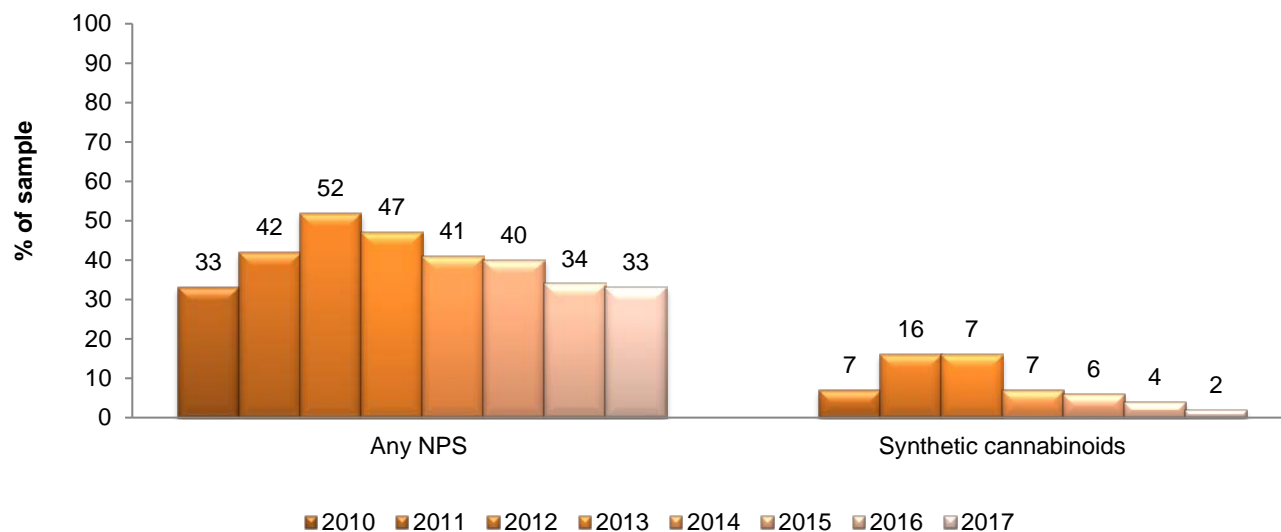
Table 15. Use of NPS classes in the six months prior to interview, 2016-2017

%	National		National N=785	NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
	N=795	N=785		n=100	n=100	n=100	n=100	n=100	n=100	n=86	n=100
	2016	2017									
	%	%	Median days used last six months (range)	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Phenethylamines											
Any 2C substance (2CB, 2CI, 2CE or other)	13	9*	n/a	12	14	9	10	9	8	1	10
NBOMe	4	5	1 (1-14)	4	4	5	6	8	6	2	1
Mescaline	2	3	1	1	2	6	2	6	1	0	2
DO-x	0	1	-	2	0	1	2	3	0	0	0
4-FA	<1	<1	-	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
PMA	2	2	1 (1-6)	2	0	7	0	3	3	0	2
Tryptamines											
DMT	15	18	2 (1-48)	20	21	23	4	22	23	13	18
5-MeO-DMT	<1	1	-	2	2	2	0	0	1	0	1
4-AcO-DMT	<1	<1	-	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Synthetic Cathinones											
Mephedrone	<1	<1	-	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	2
Methylone/bk MDMA	2	4	2 (1-50)	5	3	2	2	5	2	5	7
MDPV/Ivory wave	0	<1	-	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0
Alpha PVP	<1	<1	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Other substituted cathinone	0	<1	-	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Piperazines											
BZP	0	<1	-	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Dissociatives											
Methoxetamine (MXE)	3	2	2 (1-26)	3	0	5	1	2	0	0	1
Plant-based NPS											
Ayahuasca	<1	<1	-	2	0	1	0	1	1	1	1
Mescaline	2	3	1 (1-120)	1	2	6	2	6	1	0	2
Salvia	2	2	1 (1-3)	2	3	0	1	4	1	0	3
Benzodiazepines											
Etizolam	<1	1	-	2	1	1	2	1	0	0	2
Synthetic cannabinoids											
	4	2	1 (1-86)	2	2	1	3	4	0	6	1
Synthetic opioids											
	n/a	<1	-	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0
Herbal high[#]											
	4	2	4.5 (1-50)	3	2	4	1	2	0	2	3

Source: EDRS participant interviews

[#] The terms 'herbal highs' and 'legal highs' appear to be used interchangeably to mean drugs that have similar effects to illicit drugs like cocaine or cannabis, but are not covered by current drug law scheduling or legislation.

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

Figure 5: Recent use of NPS and synthetic cannabinoids, nationally, 2010-2017

Source: EDRS participant interviews

Note: data collection regarding synthetic cannabinoid use started in 2011

METHAMPHETAMINE

Methamphetamine use among EDRS participants

Table 16. Percentage of the sample reporting use of any form of methamphetamine[#] in the preceding six months, 2003-2017

%	National	NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
2003	84	87	79	98	82	92	91	82	67
2004	83	89	77	94	76	90	95	82	70
2005	84	83	75	86	78	94	92	76	84
2006	82	76	78	91	78	92	88	67	78
2007	71	66	60	91	70	90	62	67	58
2008	59	66	55	77	63	58	50	24	57
2009	54	49	54	72	52	53	44	64	47
2010	56	50	70	72	48	57	45	63	51
2011	60	49	51	75	52	67	64	91	60
2012	61	42	73	84	64	48	47	75	76
2013	50	36	65	71	57	46	31	46	48
2014	47	32	51	68	64	32	31	47	47
2015	38	33	35	55	45	33	20	49	31
2016	38	27	26	57	42	36	27	52	39
2017	31**	30	33	46	40	37	12	35	14

Source: EDRS participant interviews

[#] Includes speed, base and crystal

Table 17. Percentage of the sample reporting use of speed in the preceding six months, 2003-2017

%	National	NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
2003	73	79	64	89	67	65	83	81	57
2004	68	81	64	92	68	62	78	72	42
2005	74	76	70	85	77	66	85	73	57
2006	64	55	66	91	62	51	65	59	58
2007	57	45	53	90	65	53	46	55	46
2008	46	48	42	75	59	30	38	24	34
2009	45	37	44	72	46	30	37	61	41
2010	47	29	66	70	40	38	38	59	47
2011	49	32	50	69	47	45	44	91	49
2012	48	31	63	77	61	24	27	58	58
2013	37	25	57	58	53	21	17	34	41
2014	36	21	48	56	58	13	19	39	34
2015	25	27	31	45	39	11	6	31	11
2016	25	18	21	50	32	12	18	27	25
2017	22	18	32	43	29	19	7	20	9

Source: EDRS participant interviews

Table 18. Percentage of the sample reporting use of base methamphetamine in the preceding six months, 2003-2017

%	National	NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
2003	36	42	24	28	24	70	32	32	34
2004	39	39	31	34	20	72	31	45	39
2005	38	43	27	21	23	82	38	29	45
2006	34	24	34	12	40	63	32	18	38
2007	26	23	18	16	30	64	10	27	18
2008	18	17	23	7	16	34	5	9	26
2009	15	23	13	7	14	21	3	28	17
2010	13	18	14	3	9	28	4	30	14
2011	16	16	10	12	8	24	11	18	26
2012	15	9	28	13	16	24	1	8	19
2013	6	4	5	8	7	11	0	2	9
2014	8	6	5	10	17	10	0	5	8
2015	3	4	2	5	5	6	0	3	2
2016	4	5	6	2	4	3	1	5	8
2017	3	5	1	0	1	11	2	1	1

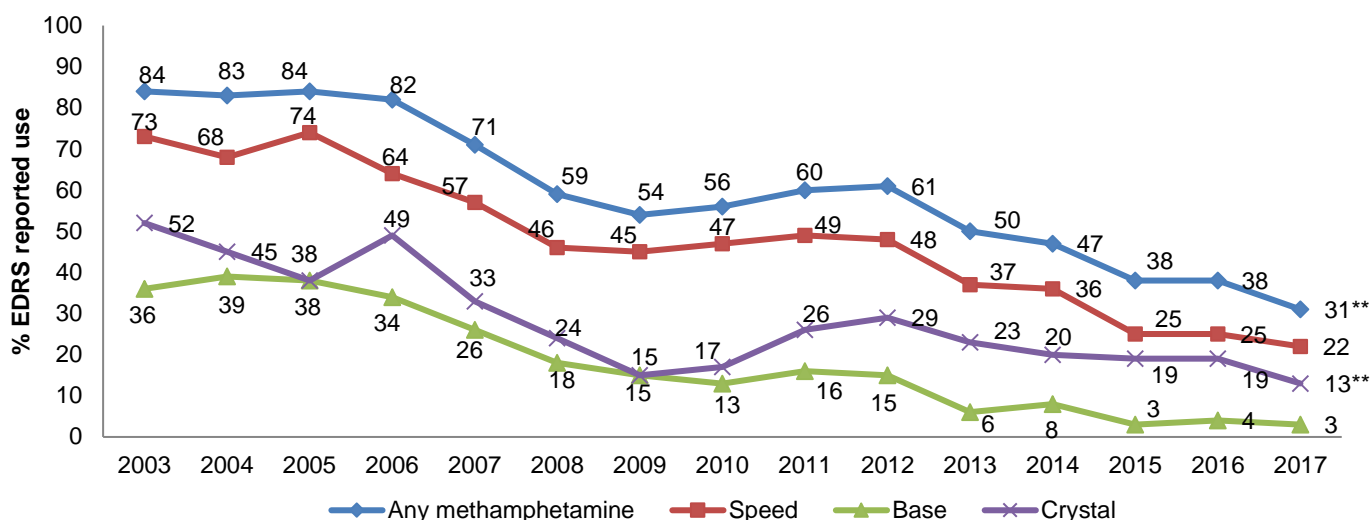
Source: EDRS participant interviews

Table 19. Percentage of the sample reporting use of crystal methamphetamine in the preceding six months, 2003-2017

%	National	NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
2003	52	48	56	64	52	48	77	40	38
2004	45	46	39	52	16	47	80	35	42
2005	38	40	26	42	10	41	69	32	50
2006	49	56	37	49	27	62	77	26	50
2007	33	42	20	39	7	49	52	24	23
2008	24	33	24	22	15	34	36	0	26
2009	15	9	8	13	7	32	20	15	17
2010	17	21	16	18	4	26	22	22	8
2011	26	19	9	38	5	43	46	27	32
2012	29	18	26	48	10	32	33	25	40
2013	23	11	14	45	17	28	22	21	21
2014	20	13	8	34	14	20	17	27	26
2015	19	12	7	19	13	26	16	36	20
2016	19	15	5	18	21	33	12	32	18
2017	13**	12	8	10	14	26	6	24	7

Source: EDRS participant interviews

Figure 6: Percentage of the sample reporting recent use of methamphetamine, nationally, 2003-2017



Source: EDRS participant interviews

Table 20. Median days of methamphetamine use in the preceding six months[#], 2016-2017

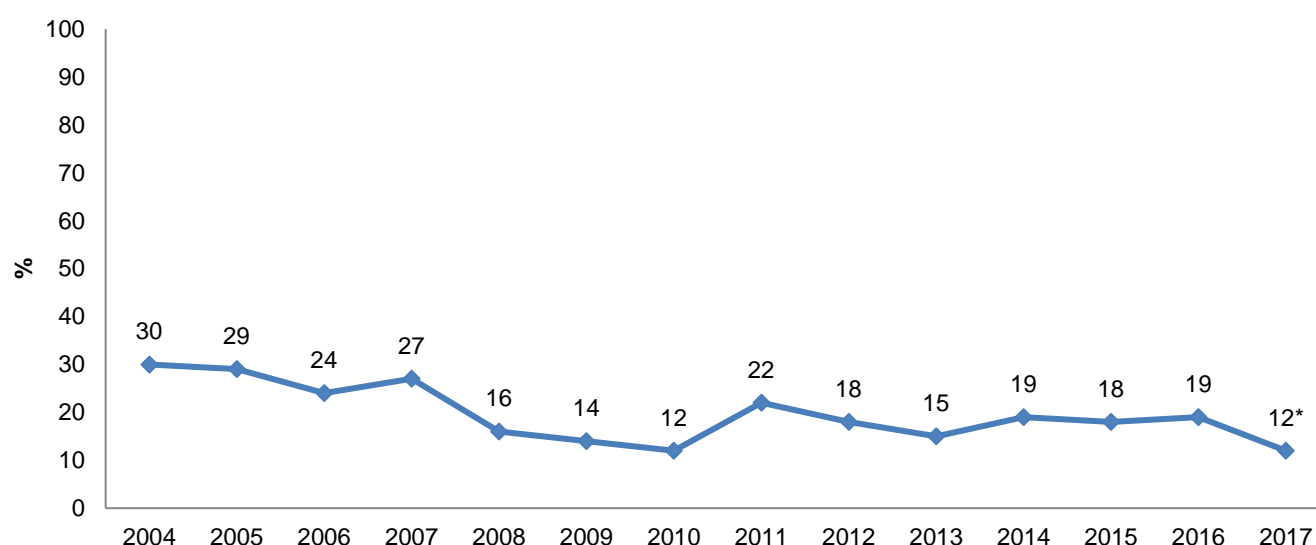
Median days	National		NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
	2016	2017								
Speed	2	2	2	2.5	3	2	2	-	2	-
Base	2	2	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	-
Crystal	8	4	2	-	2.5	5.5	6.5	-	5	-
Any form[^]	4	3	2	2	3	2	5	1	4	6

Source: EDRS participant interviews

[#] Among those who had used. Maximum number of days, i.e. daily use = 180. See page 5 for guide.

[^] Includes speed powder, base and crystal forms.

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

Figure 7: 'Weekly or more' methamphetamine use, among those who had used methamphetamine in the last six months, 2004-2017

Source: EDRS participant interviews

Note: data not collected in 2003. 2004-2017 figures include speed, base and crystal

Perceived availability, purity and price

Table 21. Perceived current availability of methamphetamine, 2016-2017

	National		NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
	2016	2017								
% Speed (n)	(N=102)	(N=93)	(n=11)	(n=15)	(n=13)	(n=26)	(n=6)	(n=5)	(n=10)	(n=7)
Very easy	18	26	9	7	8	35	-	-	30	-
Easy	42	39	55	60	23	35	-	-	60	-
Difficult	28	30	36	33	62	15	-	-	10	-
Very difficult	12	5	0	0	8	15	-	-	0	-
% Base (n)	(N=19)	(N=19)	(n=3)	(n=3)	(n=1)	(n=2)	(n=9)	(n=0)	(n=0)	(n=1)
Very easy	32	32	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easy	32	42	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Difficult	32	21	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Very difficult	5	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
% Crystal (n)	(N=120)	(N=100)	(n=9)	(n=8)	(n=5)	(n=15)	(n=20)	(n=5)	(n=21)	(n=17)
Very easy	63	56	-	-	-	60	75	-	62	47
Easy	29	34	-	-	-	33	25	-	33	35
Difficult	8	10	-	-	-	7	0	-	5	18
Very difficult	0	0	-	-	-	0	0	-	0	0

Source: EDRS participant interviews

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

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

Table 22. Perceived current purity of methamphetamine, 2016-2017

	National		NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
	2016	2017								
% Speed (n)	(N=99)	(N=82)	(n=8)	(n=13)	(n=13)	(n=19)	(n=6)	(n=5)	(n=10)	(n=8)
Low	19	20	-	15	23	16	-	-	20	-
Medium	42	32	-	31	46	26	-	-	30	-
High	34	45	-	46	23	58	-	-	50	-
Fluctuates	4	4	-	8	8	0	-	-	0	-
% Base (n)	(N=20)	(N=15)	(n=3)	(n=2)	(n=0)	(n=2)	(n=7)	(n=0)	(n=0)	(n=1)
Low	10	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Medium	25	33	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
High	45	40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fluctuates	20	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
% Crystal (n)	(N=113)	(N=91)	(n=6)	(n=8)	(n=4)	(n=14)	(n=19)	(n=5)	(n=19)	(n=16)
Low	2	18**	-	-	-	7	16	-	11	13
Medium	35	25	-	-	-	14	21	-	47	25
High	50	45	-	-	-	57	53	-	32	50
Fluctuates	13	12	-	-	-	21	11	-	11	13

Source: EDRS participant interviews

- not published due to small numbers reported (n<10). Note: The response 'don't know' was excluded from analysis

Table 23. Median price last methamphetamine purchase, 2016-2017

\$	Median price \$ per point						Median price \$ per gram					
	Speed		Base		Crystal		Speed		Base		Crystal	
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017
National	50	32.5	72.5	-	75	50	200	180	-	-	400	400

Source: EDRS participant interviews

- Not published due to small numbers reporting (n<10)

COCAINE

Cocaine use among EDRS participants

Table 24. Percentage of the sample reporting use of cocaine in the preceding six months, 2003-2017

%	National	NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
2003	23	46	26	35	7	37	17	5	18
2004	27	46	34	48	10	26	16	16	21
2005	41	55	44	63	20	49	35	11	41
2006	37	45	44	55	33	31	29	10	36
2007	40	62	46	54	35	36	27	9	41
2008	36	51	45	51	35	20	40	2	30
2009	39	64	44	48	31	20	24	23	55
2010	48	59	58	54	49	42	26	52	51
2011	46	59	43	43	39	45	32	27	52
2012	40	57	37	54	26	37	31	17	34
2013	36	42	38	46	17	35	34	34	40
2014	44	67	51	58	22	45	30	39	42
2015	42	61	41	46	17	45	29	52	39
2016	47	70	44	56	24	57	38	42	41
2017	48	62	48	53	24	60	31	57	50

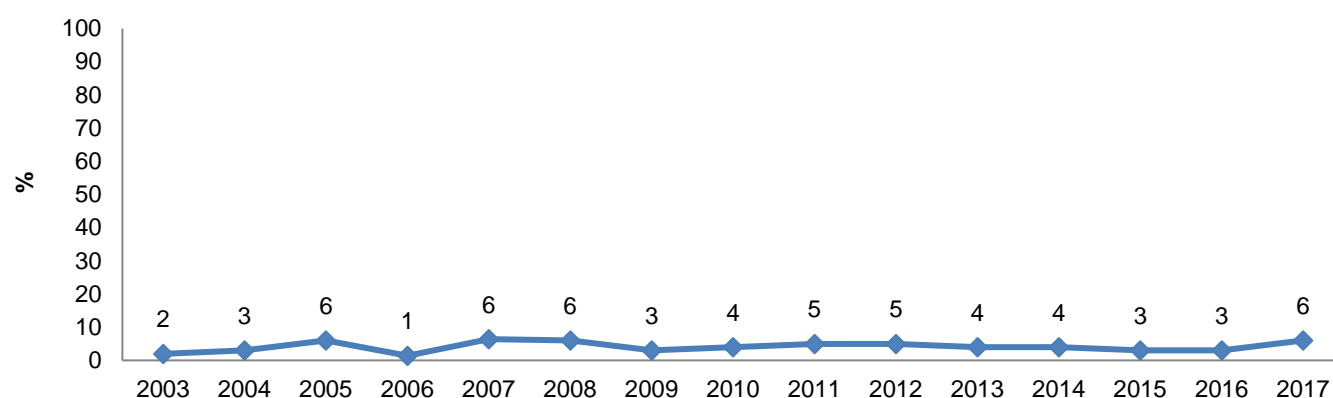
Source: EDRS participant interviews

Table 25. Median days used cocaine in the last six months[#], 2003-2017

Median	National	NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
2003	2	2	1	3	2 [^]	2	2	6	4.5
2004	2	3	2	1.5	2	2	1	1	2
2005	2	2.5	3	2	1	2	2	3	3
2006	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	2
2007	3	4	2.5	2	2	3	2	2	2
2008	3	5	4	3	2	2	3	-	2.5
2009	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
2010	3	5	3	2	3	2	2	2	2
2011	2	4	3.5	2.5	1	2	1.5	2	2
2012	3	3	4	3	2	2	2	2.5	4
2013	2	2	2	2	3	2	1	4	2
2014	2	3	6	3	2	2	2	2	2
2015	3	4	3	2.5	1	3	1	2	3
2016	3	3.5	2	2	2	3	2.5	3	2
2017	3	3	4	3	2	3.5	2	2	2

Source: EDRS participant interviews

[#] Among those who had used in the last 6 months. Maximum number of days, i.e. daily use = 180. See page 5 for guide

Figure 8: 'Weekly or more' cocaine use, among those who had used cocaine in the last six months, 2003-2017

Source: EDRS participant interviews

Perceived availability, purity and price

Table 26. Perceived current availability and purity of cocaine, 2016-2017

	National		NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
	2016	2017								
% Current availability (n)	(N=187)	(N=255)	(n=45)	(n=38)	(n=24)	(n=21)	(n=34)	(n=19)	(n=37)	(n=37)
Very easy	14	17	24	21	4	0	32	16	16	5
Easy	41	38	51	47	29	19	44	37	32	27
Difficult	37	34	22	26	46	48	18	37	30	57
Very difficult	8	12	2	5	21	33	6	11	22	11
% Current purity (n)	(N=175)	(N=236)	(n=40)	(n=36)	(n=21)	(n=21)	(n=33)	(n=19)	(n=32)	(n=34)
Low	31	30	43	22	43	38	18	26	25	29
Medium	39	38	23	44	38	33	49	32	47	38
High	16	24	10	28	14	29	27	26	28	29
Fluctuates	13	8	25	6	5	0	6	16	0	3

Source: EDRS participant interviews

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

Table 27. Median price of last cocaine purchase per gram, 2003-2017

\$	National	NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
2003	250	200	-	250	-	210	-	-	250
2004	250	200	250	277.5	-	250	-	-	237.5
2005	300	270	250	300	-	300	350	-	300
2006	300	300	300	300	310	-	350	-	300
2007	300	300	300	300	320	337.50	400	-	300
2008	300	300	300	300	350	375	-	-	300
2009	300	300	300	300	-	-	-	-	300
2010	300	300	300	300	350	350	-	-	300
2011	300	300	300	300	300	375	-	-	350
2012	300	300	-	350	-	350	325	-	300
2013	300	300	300	300	-	325	400	-	-
2014	300	300	300	300	-	300	400	350	300
2015	300	300	300	300	-	350	-	300	300
2016	300	300	300	300	-	350	-	350	325
2017	300	300	300	350	-	300	350	350	300

Source: EDRS participant interviews

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

KETAMINE

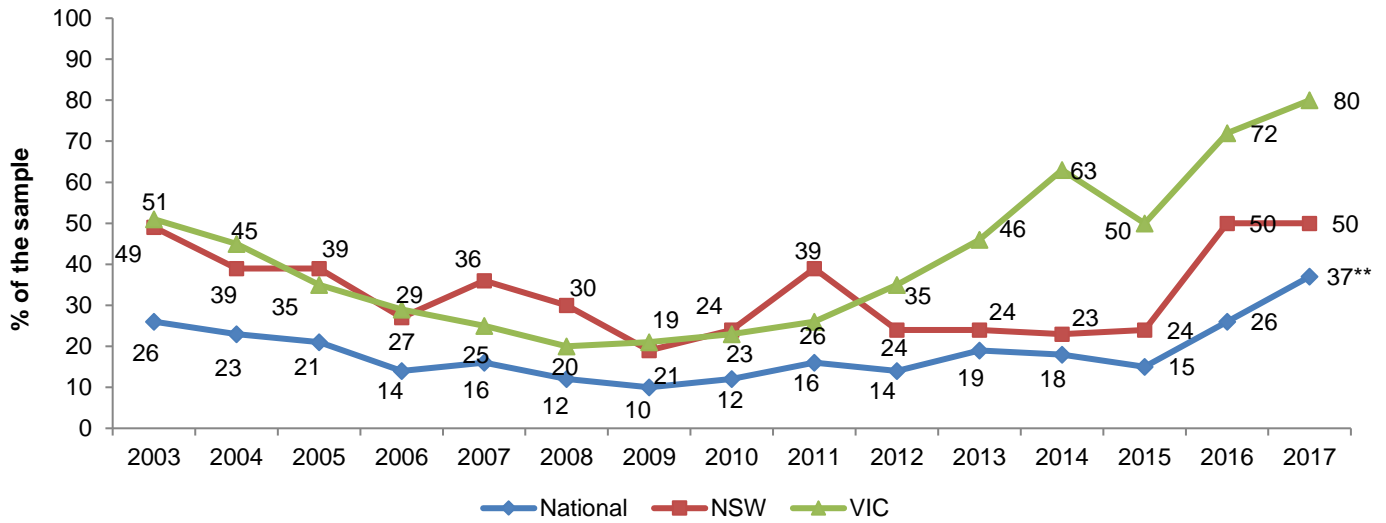
Ketamine use among EDRS participants

Table 28. Percentage of the sample reporting use of ketamine in the preceding six months, 2003-2017

%	National	NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
2003	26	49	21	51	24	36	12	7	14
2004	23	39	15	45	5	39	10	18	16
2005	21	39	17	35	11	24	11	7	20
2006	14	27	15	29	6	11	4	6	12
2007	16	36	10	25	14	26	2	8	1
2008	12	30	6	20	6	20	3	0	4
2009	10	19	2	21	5	19	6	0	6
2010	12	24	6	23	6	13	4	7	8
2011	16	39	14	26	8	8	0	0	4
2012	14	24	14	35	4	10	3	8	7
2013	19	24	33	46	9	6	7	9	13
2014	18	23	6	63	14	4	11	15	5
2015	15	24	9	50	5	4	4	18	4
2016	26	50	20	72	3	15	18	11	22
2017	37**	50	49	80	17	48	16	11	21

Source: EDRS participant interviews

Figure 9: Percentage of the sample reporting use of ketamine in the preceding six months, 2003-2017



Source: EDRS participant interviews

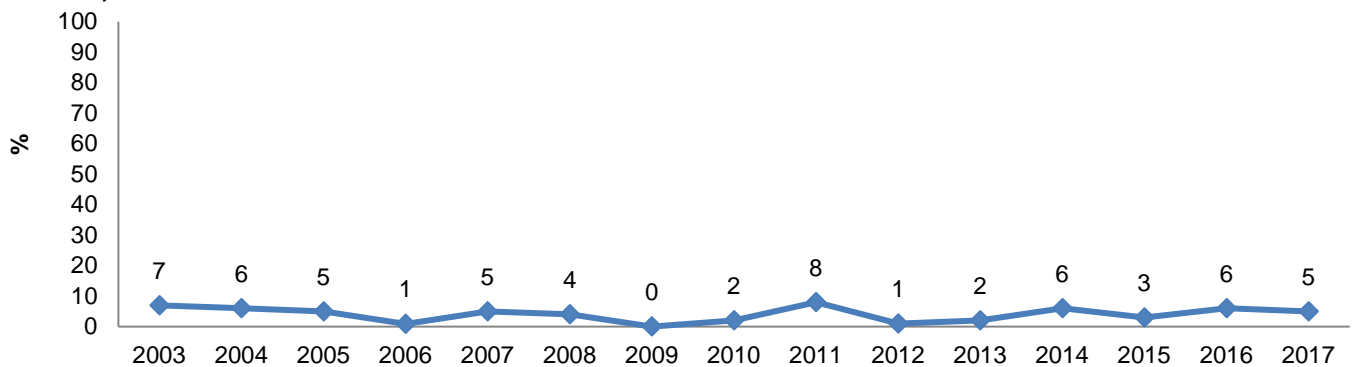
Table 29. Median days used ketamine in the preceding six months#, 2003-2017

Median	National	NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
2003	2	3	2	3.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	1	2
2004	3	4	2	3	2	3	1	2	2
2005	2	2	2	3	3	2	2	1	2.5
2006	2	2	2	3	2	2	2	6	1
2007	2	2	2	1	1	3	2.5	1	4
2008	2	3	1	3	1	3	2.5	-	1.5
2009	2	2	5	2	2	2	1	-	1
2010	2	3	1.5	2	1	3	2	3	1
2011	2	2	1	4	-	-	-	-	-
2012	2	3	1	2	2	2	5	1	1
2013	2	2	2	4	-	-	-	-	-
2014	2	2	-	3	2	-	1	3	-
2015	2	1.5	-	4	-	-	-	3	-
2016	3	3	2	5	-	1	3	1	2
2017	3	3	2	5	2	2	2.5	-	2

Source: EDRS participant interviews

Among those who had used in the last 6 months. Maximum number of days, i.e. daily use = 180. See page 5 for guide
 - not published due to small numbers reported (n<10)

Figure 10: ‘Weekly or more’ ketamine use, among those who had used ketamine in the last six months, 2003-2017



Source: EDRS participant interviews

Perceived availability, purity and price

Table 30. Perceived current availability and purity of ketamine, 2016-2017

	National		NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
	2016	2017								
% Current availability (n)	(N=101)	(N=145)	(n=31)	(n=27)	(n=38)	(n=8)	(n=25)	(n=6)	(n=1)	(n=9)
Very easy	26	22	16	19	40	-	8	-	-	-
Easy	38	42	45	37	47	-	44	-	-	-
Difficult	33	30	36	37	11	-	32	-	-	-
Very difficult	4	6	3	7	3	-	16	-	-	-
% Current purity (n)	(N=98)	(N=136)	(n=28)	(n=27)	(n=38)	(n=7)	(n=22)	(n=5)	(n=1)	(n=8)
Low	4	3	0	4	5	-	0	-	-	-
Medium	21	29	21	30	32	-	41	-	-	-
High	54	58	57	67	50	-	59	-	-	-
Fluctuates	20	10*	21	0	13	-	0	-	-	-

Source: EDRS participant interviews

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

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

Table 31. Median price of last ketamine purchase per gram, 2003-2017

\$	National	NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
2003	200	150	-	200	-	200	-	-	-
2004	200	200	-	195	-	200	-	-	-
2005	150	100	-	180	-	-	-	-	-
2006	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2007	180	150	-	-	-	200	-	-	-
2008	155	150	-	200	-	-	-	-	-
2009	200	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2010	160	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2011	170	150	-	200	-	-	-	-	-
2012	180	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2013	180	-	-	200	-	-	-	-	-
2014	200	-	-	200	-	-	-	-	-
2015	200	-	-	200	-	-	-	-	-
2016	200	200	-	180	-	-	-	-	-
2017	200	180	200	200	-	250	-	-	-

Source: EDRS participant interviews

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

GAMMA-HYDROXYBUTYRATE (GHB)**GHB use among EDRS participants****Table 32. Percentage of the sample reporting use of GHB in the preceding six months, 2003-2017**

%	National	NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
2003	11	21	12	18	6	12	8	4	6
2004	10	18	6	27	3	12	5	6	6
2005	9	13	6	16	2	18	3	4	13
2006	8	21	7	14	3	7	2	0	9
2007	7	23	5	10	1	11	0	0	3
2008	7	24	2	11	1	4	2	0	5
2009	4	6	1	10	3	2	2	0	3
2010	6	17	3	12	2	8	0	0	2
2011	7	16	9	6	3	5	0	0	7
2012	7	11	6	7	2	12	1	0	10
2013	6	11	0	14	0	5	3	2	6
2014	5	12	3	13	0	3	3	2	3
2015	5	11	4	9	0	4	2	3	2
2016	8	20	1	14	1	9	4	4	7
2017	7	12	5	15	3	9	3	7	4

Source: EDRS participant interviews

Table 33. Median days used GHB in the last six months[#], 2003-2017

Median	National	NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
2003	2	2	3	4	1	2	2	8	1
2004	2	2	1	3	1	1	1	3	3
2005	2	2	2	10	2	2	1	2	2
2006	2	3	1	2.5	2	2	3	-	1
2007	4	6	3.5	2	6	3	-	-	4
2008	2	2.5	2.5	3	1	1	1	-	1
2009	2	4	1	2.5	1	2	2	-	2
2010	2	3	1	2	1	1	-	-	49.5
2011	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2012	2	2	2	6	1	1	1	-	1.5
2013	2	3	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
2014	2	1.5	-	10	-	-	-	-	-
2015	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2016	3	6	-	4.5	-	-	-	-	-
2017	2	1.5	-	5	-	-	-	-	-

Source: EDRS participant interviews

[#] Among those who had used in the last 6 months. Maximum number of days, i.e. daily use = 180. See page 5 for guide
 - not published due to small numbers reported (n<10)

Perceived availability, purity and price

Table 34. Perceived current availability and purity of GHB, 2016-2017

	National		NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
	2016	2017								
% Current availability (n)	(N=31)	(N=17)	(n=6)	(n=0)	(n=4)	(n=1)	(n=3)	(n=1)	(n=2)	(n=0)
Very easy	16	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easy	67	35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Difficult	13	29	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Very difficult	3	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
% Current purity (n)	(N=32)	(N=18)	(n=6)	(n=0)	(n=4)	(n=1)	(n=3)	(n=1)	(n=3)	(n=0)
Low	3	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Medium	28	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
High	50	61	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fluctuates	19	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Source: EDRS participant interviews

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

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

GHB price data not presented given the small numbers commenting across all jurisdictions.

LYSERGIC ACID DIETHYLAMIDE (LSD)

LSD use among EDRS participants

Table 35. Percentage of the sample reporting use of LSD in the preceding six months, 2003-2017

%	National	NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
2003	28	27	44	48	24	30	22	25	18
2004	26	20	23	40	32	36	11	31	18
2005	32	33	30	38	31	48	35	15	23
2006	29	17	18	37	29	34	25	41	38
2007	28	22	24	39	20	33	23	33	28
2008	30	18	37	29	41	35	21	16	32
2009	34	37	35	46	34	37	31	11	30
2010	38	44	41	49	27	35	35	26	38
2011	46	46	39	57	43	30	36	60	52
2012	34	43	38	38	30	19	33	42	34
2013	43	51	53	52	38	25	41	40	41
2014	41	43	19	49	35	35	45	43	57
2015	40	60	37	46	41	37	24	32	41
2016	45	65	40	52	39	30	50	32	55
2017	50	73	64	52	39	36	33	47	52

Source: EDRS participant interviews

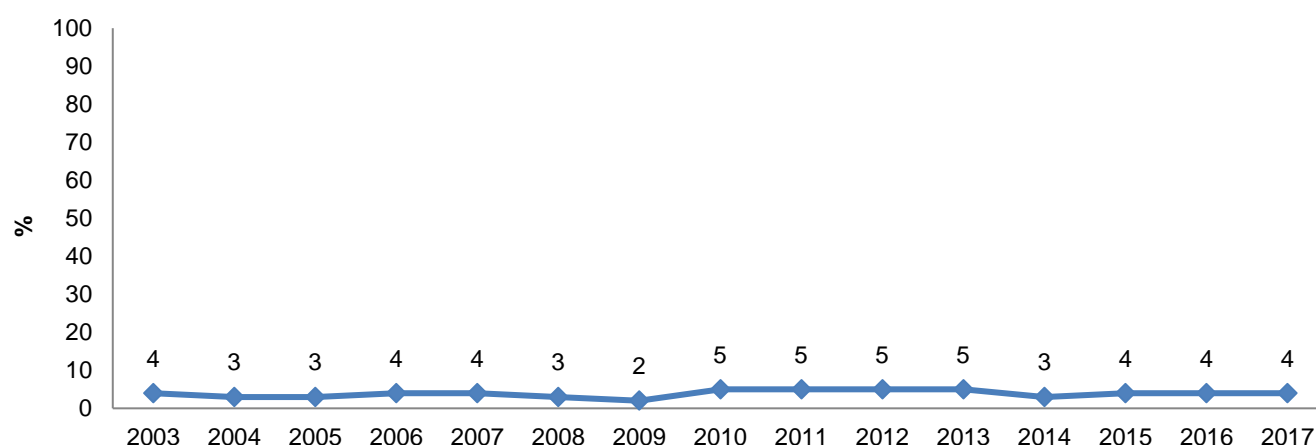
Table 36. Median days used LSD in the last six months[#], 2003-2017

Median	National	NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
2003	2	1	2	2	1	3	1	2	2
2004	2	1	1	2	2.5	2	1	1	2
2005	2	2	2	3	1	3	2	2	1.5
2006	2	2	1.5	3	2	3	2	2	1.5
2007	2	2.5	2	2	2	3	2	3	3
2008	2	2	4	2	2	3	5	1.5	1
2009	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	-	2
2010	3	3	3	3	2.5	3.5	2	1	3
2011	3	2	3.5	4	3.5	2	3.5	-	2
2012	3	3	5	3	3	2	2	3	2
2013	3	2	4	3	2	2	4	2	2
2014	2	2	4	3	2	2	2	3	2
2015	2	2	2	3	3	3	2	2	3
2016	3	3	3	2	4	2.5	2	4	4
2017	3	3	3	3	2	3	3	2	3

Source: EDRS participant interviews

[#] Among those who had used. Maximum number of days, i.e. daily use = 180. See page 5 for guide.

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

Figure 11: 'Weekly or more' LSD use, among those who had used LSD in the last six months, 2003-2017

Source: EDRS participant interviews

Perceived availability, purity and price

Table 37. Perceived current availability and purity of LSD, 2016-2017

	National		NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
	2016	2017								
% Current availability (n)	(N=297)	(N=344)	(n=65)	(n=61)	(n=28)	(n=42)	(n=25)	(n=38)	(n=33)	(n=52)
Very easy	30	23	25	30	25	19	16	37	18	10
Easy	39	39	29	38	43	48	48	24	39	50
Difficult	25	33*	39	33	21	26	24	37	33	37
Very difficult	6	6	8	0	11	7	12	3	9	4
% Current purity (n)	(N=286)	(N=338)	(n=62)	(n=59)	(n=27)	(n=42)	(n=25)	(n=38)	(n=35)	(n=50)
Low	5	3	0	0	0	7	4	3	6	8
Medium	33	28	19	29	15	31	32	29	31	40
High	48	54	52	58	74	45	44	63	57	44
Fluctuates	15	15	29	14	11	17	20	5	6	8

Source: EDRS participant interviews

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

Table 38. Median price of last LSD purchase per tab, 2003-2017

\$	National	NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
2003	20	15	20	15	20	10	20	25	20
2004	20	20	20	20	20	10	25	25	20
2005	20	20	20	15	25	10	25	25	20
2006	17.5	20	20	12	20	10	20	20	20
2007	20	15	15	20	15	20	25	25	20
2008	20	15	20	15	20	12.5	-	-	20
2009	15	20	25	19	20	15	25	-	20
2010	20	20	20	10	25	10	25	25	20
2011	20	20	20	15	20	15	25	27.5	20
2012	20	20	22.5	15	20	15	20	20	20
2013	20	20	20	15	20	15	25	-	22.5
2014	20	25	20	15	20	15	25	25	20
2015	15	25	25	15	20	20	25	25	20
2016	20	20	20	20	15	17.5	25	30	20
2017	20	20	20	15	15	20	25	25	20

Source: EDRS participant interviews

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

CANNABIS

Cannabis use amongst EDRS participants

Table 39. Percentage of the sample reporting cannabis use in the preceding six months, 2003-2017

%	National	NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
2003	85	82	82	82	90	88	91	95	73
2004	81	85	83	78	91	81	84	87	70
2005	84	82	81	88	89	87	83	79	83
2006	83	73	83	79	82	83	85	84	92
2007	81	74	85	82	68	80	80	96	87
2008	76	71	86	84	74	74	85	40	81
2009	82	83	89	85	76	86	85	60	84
2010	80	78	89	89	72	84	81	70	72
2011	85	83	89	86	67	92	86	73	93
2012	82	86	92	85	69	88	77	83	81
2013	86	90	87	87	78	85	92	73	84
2014	83	85	74	81	76	87	86	84	87
2015	87	91	82	90	80	92	86	82	93
2016	86	85	85	86	77	97	87	82	86
2017	89*	93	95	88	84	89	82	88	93

Source: EDRS participant interviews

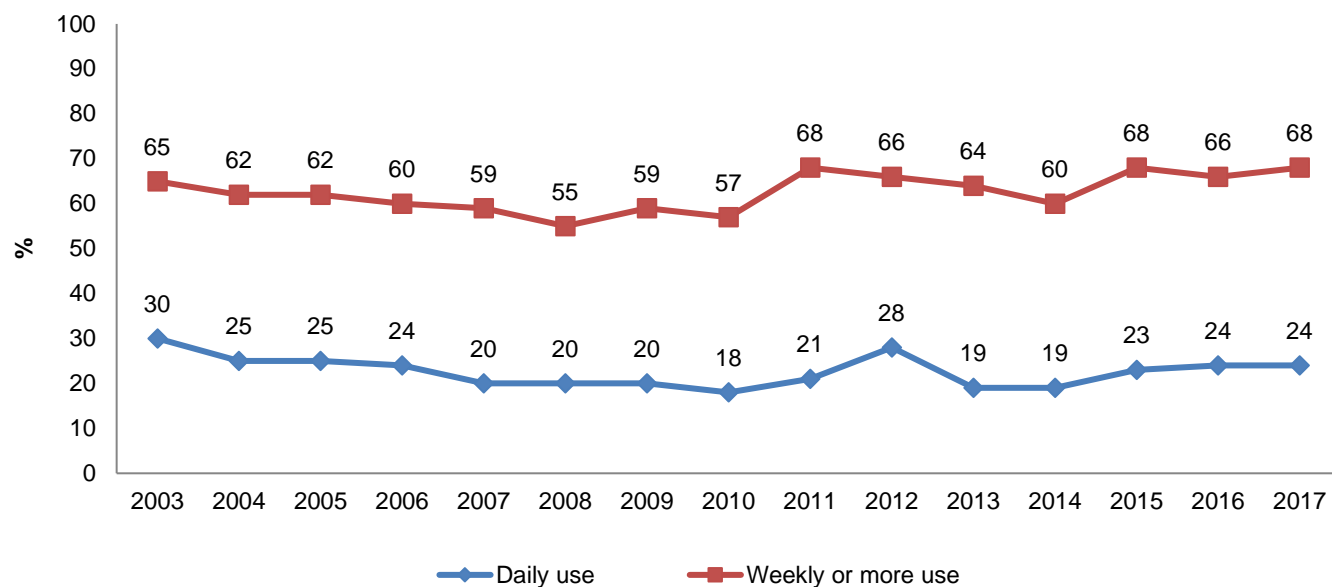
Table 40. Median days used cannabis[#], 2003-2017

Median	National	NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
2003	56	49	27.5	55	48	27	25	180	48
2004	48	48	27	24	24	48	46.5	155	90
2005	48	48	39	20	24	85	60	150	26
2006	48	24	50	48	25	70	48	90	52
2007	40	48	48	24	11	98	48	15	24
2008	24	24	60	33	15	48	15	6	24
2009	29	26	35	24	15	96	48	37	38
2010	24	49	24	30	12	60	20	24	24
2011	48	48	48	48	24	50	155	60	50
2012	60	48	120	72	120	48	48	27	48
2013	48	40	90	50	48	48	26.5	24	48
2014	32	30	60	24	50	48	27.5	30	48
2015	50	48	40	65	80	48	48	90	48
2016	49	24	50	22	100	72	24	165	72
2017	60	60	50	30	60	72	48	96	87.5

Source: EDRS participant interviews

[#] Among those who had used in the last 6 months. Maximum number of days, i.e. daily use = 180. See page 5 for guide.

Figure 12: ‘Daily’ and ‘weekly or more’ cannabis use, among those who had used cannabis in the last six months, 2003-2017



Source: EDRS participant interviews

Perceived availability, purity and price

Table 41. Perceived current availability and potency of cannabis, 2016-2017

%	National		NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
	2016	2017								
% Current availability										
Hydro (n)	(N=360)	(N=382)	(n=47)	(n=43)	(n=22)	(n=64)	(n=41)	(n=43)	(n=57)	(n=65)
Very easy	67	70	64	79	77	59	68	72	83	66
Easy	26	24	30	9	18	36	22	26	12	31
Difficult	7	5	6	9	5	5	7	2	5	3
Very difficult	1	<1	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0
Bush (n)	(N=284)	(N=332)	(n=34)	(n=43)	(n=20)	(n=53)	(n=39)	(n=43)	(n=39)	(n=61)
Very easy	51	45	32	40	60	57	49	42	44	39
Easy	30	31	29	28	10	25	33	47	26	36
Difficult	18	21	35	30	30	15	10	9	26	21
Very difficult	1	4	3	2	0	4	8	2	5	3
% Current potency										
Hydro (n)	(N=359)	(N=379)	(n=46)	(n=42)	(n=22)	(n=63)	(n=41)	(n=42)	(n=57)	(n=66)
Low	3	6	4	12	18	0	10	0	9	5
Medium	39	27	22	29	32	25	12	33	19	42
High	47	52	48	45	46	60	49	60	61	41
Fluctuates	11	15	26	14	5	14	29	7	11	12
Bush (n)	(N=280)	(N=334)	(n=33)	(n=44)	(n=20)	(n=52)	(n=39)	(n=42)	(n=42)	(n=62)
Low	23	25	39	25	10	23	13	19	57	16
Medium	50	52	36	50	40	64	51	64	31	61
High	19	18	18	25	50	12	21	14	12	11
Fluctuates	8	5	6	0	0	2	15	2	0	11

Source: EDRS participant interviews

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

Table 42. Median price of last cannabis purchase, 2016-2017

	Median price \$ per gram				Median price \$ per ounce			
	Hydro		Bush		Hydro		Bush	
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017
National	20	20	20	18	280	280	240	250
NSW	20	20	20	20	300	280	-	250
ACT	20	15	17.5	15	-	250	240	250
VIC	-	15	-	15	-	240	-	-
TAS	20	20	-	12.5	280	300	200	250
SA	10	-	-	-	215	220	200	220
WA	-	-	-	-	350	330	300	300
NT	30	30	30	30	400	400	400	350
QLD	20	15	-	10	280	275	250	250

Source: EDRS participant interviews

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

OTHER DRUG USE

Table 43. Percentage of the sample reporting use of other drugs in the six months prior to interview, 2016-2017

%	National N=763	National N=786		NSW n=100	ACT n=100	VIC n=100	TAS n=100	SA n=100	WA n=100	NT n=86	QLD n=100
	2016	2017									
	%	%	Median days used last six months	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Alcohol	97	97	40	97	95	96	98	99	96	99	99
Tobacco	83	87*	144	86	92	86	86	87	90	86	79
Pharmaceutical stimulants#	37	44**	6	46	41	26	36	47	78	16	60
Nitrous oxide	36	42**	5	55	53	73	29	45	46	5	26
Amyl nitrate	27	25	3	39	30	44	16	42	9	8	10
Heroin	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	3	0	0	4
Other opiates#	21	24	5	18	17	21	29	47	8	15	33
OTC codeine	18	21	3	20	25	13	27	24	20	13	26
Antidepressants (Illicit only)	2	3	3	2	3	1	3	6	0	1	7
Benzodiazepines#	38	42	5	44	36	47	41	55	37	21	50
Mushrooms	22	27*	2	36	38	36	25	26	14	8	30
MDA	11	14	2	11	8	16	13	14	24	6	15
E-cigarette	26	28	3	25	26	27	31	49	24	26	17
Unknown capsules	14	20**	2	8	23	23	25	11	19	19	31
DXM	6	6	2	10	4	9	6	4	4	7	6

Source: EDRS participant interviews

Other drugs include: licit or illicit methadone (1%), licit or illicit buprenorphine (1%) and steroids (1%)

Includes licit and illicit use

DRUG-RELATED RISK BEHAVIOURS

Injecting history

Table 44. Injecting history, 2016-2017

	National N=761	National N=786	NSW n=100	ACT n=100	VIC n=100	TAS n=100	SA n=100	WA n=100	NT n=86	QLD n=100
	2016	2017								
% Ever injected a drug	10	8	9	4	3	16	10	4	14	7
% Injected in the last month	4	2	1	0	2	8	2	1	4	1
Median age first injected (range)#	19 (12-46)	19 (14-29)	-	-	-	21 (17-28)	19 (17-26)	-	18 (14-26)	-

Source: EDRS participant interviews

Among those who had ever injected

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

Overdose

Table 45. Percentage of the sample reporting lifetime and past year overdose, 2016-2017

	National N=795	National N=785	NSW n=103	ACT n=100	VIC n=100	TAS n=100	SA n=100	WA n=100	NT n=85	QLD n=100
	2016	2017								
% Lifetime stimulant overdose	29	33	40	27	23	26	49	25	42	34
% Stimulant overdose in the last 12 months	19	26**	32	21	20	19	40	20	33	25
% Main drug attributed recent stimulant overdose to# (n)	(N=143)	(N=202)	(n=32)	(n=22)	(n=19)	(n=20)	(n=40)	(n=19)	(n=25)	(n=25)
Ecstasy	61	58	50	46	42	70	53	74	72	64
Crystal	9	8	0	5	16	5	18	5	4	12
Speed	4	3	0	0	11	5	0	0	0	8
Base	<1	1	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0
Pharmaceutical stimulants	4	4	9	0	5	0	0	11	0	4
LSD	5	6	9	14	0	0	5	0	16	4
Cocaine	4	6	13	9	0	0	13	0	8	0
MDA	0	2	0	0	11	0	3	0	0	0
Ketamine	5	4	3	9	11	0	5	0	0	0
Other stimulant drug	8	9	16	18	5	20	0	11	0	8
% Lifetime depressant overdose	26	27	28	33	19	33	32	18	29	22
% Depressant overdose in the last 12 months	14	17*	18	24	12	20	20	14	18	12
% Main drug attributed recent depressant overdose to# (n)	(n=106)	(n=135)	(n=18)	(n=25)	(n=12)	(n=21)	(n=20)	(n=13)	(n=13)	(n=13)
Alcohol	75	77	83	80	58	81	65	77	85	85
GHB	10	2	0	0	17	0	5	0	0	0
Benzodiazepines	5	8	0	8	0	10	10	23	8	8
Heroin	2	<1	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0
Other opiates	4	5	11	0	0	5	20	0	0	0
Other depressant drug	5	7	6	12	17	5	0	0	8	8

Source: EDRS participant interviews

#Among those who had overdosed in the last 12 months

Sexual risk behaviour

Table 46. Sexual risk behaviour in the last six months, 2016-2017

	National N=793	National N=784	NSW n=100	ACT n=100	VIC n=100	TAS n=100	SA n=100	WA n=99	NT n=85	QLD n=100
	2016	2017								
% No. casual sexual partners										
No casual partner	36	30	25	34	35	39	31	26	25	24
1 person	17	19	28	19	16	14	16	12	25	20
2 people	13	15	15	15	14	14	9	22	13	16
3-5 people	23	21	13	21	17	24	26	23	24	22
6-10 people	8	10	12	7	12	6	15	11	6	13
10 or more	4	5	7	4	6	3	3	5	8	5
% Penetrative sex with casual partner while on drugs	55	63**	67	61	56	54	65	64	66	70
% Did not use protection <u>last time</u> had sex with casual partner while on drugs[#]	44	51*	52	38	55	63	51	49	52	51
% Sexual health check-up in past year	46	51	53	47	51	56	40	46	63	53

Source: EDRS participant interviews

[#]Among those who had had penetrative sex with casual partner while under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol in the past six months

Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test (AUDIT)

Table 47. AUDIT mean scores and percentage of sample scoring above levels indicative of hazardous alcohol intake, 2016-2017

	National N=792	National N=785	NSW n=100	ACT n=100	VIC n=100	TAS n=100	SA n=100	WA n=99	NT n=86	QLD n=100
	2016	2017								
Mean AUDIT total score	12.3	12.4	11.9	11.8	10.2	14.0	12.8	12.0	13.1	13.4
SD	6.8	6.5	7.4	6.2	6.6	6.4	6.2	5.3	5.7	7.1
(range)	(0-37)	(0-34)	(0-31)	(0-31)	(0-31)	(1-30)	(0-30)	(0-30)	(0-29)	(0-34)
Score 8 or above %	73	77	68	74	60	83	83	86	88	76
% Zone 1	27	23	32	26	40	17	17	14	12	24
% Zone 2	43	48	42	49	42	42	51	65	55	43
% Zone 3	15	14	10	13	7	22	18	12	17	12
% Zone 4	15	15	16	12	11	19	14	9	16	21

Source: EDRS participant interviews

Note: Zone 1 refers to low risk drinking or abstinence; Zone 2 consists of alcohol use in excess of low-risk guidelines; Zone 3 may refer to harmful or hazardous drinking; and Zone 4 may be indicative of those warranting evaluation or treatment for alcohol dependence

Ecstasy and Methamphetamine dependence

Table 48. Severity of dependence (SDS) scores and percentage of sample[#] scoring above levels indicative of dependence, 2016-2017

	2016	2017	NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
	N=779	N=775	n=100	n=100	n=97	n=100	n=98	n=100	n=83	n=97
Median ecstasy SDS score (range)	1 (0-11)	1 (0-13)	1 (0-12)	1 (0-8)	1 (0-9)	0 (0-10)	1 (1-11)	1 (0-13)	0 (0-9)	0 (0-11)
Score 3 or above %	26	20**	25	19	18	10	25	28	17	19
	N=261	n=244	n=29	n=31	n=48	n=43	n=31	n=8	n=32	n=22
Median meth SDS score (range)	0 (0-12)	0 (0-14)	0 (0-7)	0 (0-6)	0 (0-14)	0 (0-12)	2 (0-12)	-	0 (0-14)	0.5 (0-9)
Score 4 or above %	27	20^	14	7	6	23	39	-	22	32

Source: EDRS participant interviews

[#]Among those who had used.

[^]This equates to 6% of the entire sample

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

Note: the SDS generates a score between 0-15. A cut-off score of three or more was used to assess ecstasy dependence, while a cut-off score of four or more was used to assess methamphetamine dependence.

Mental Health

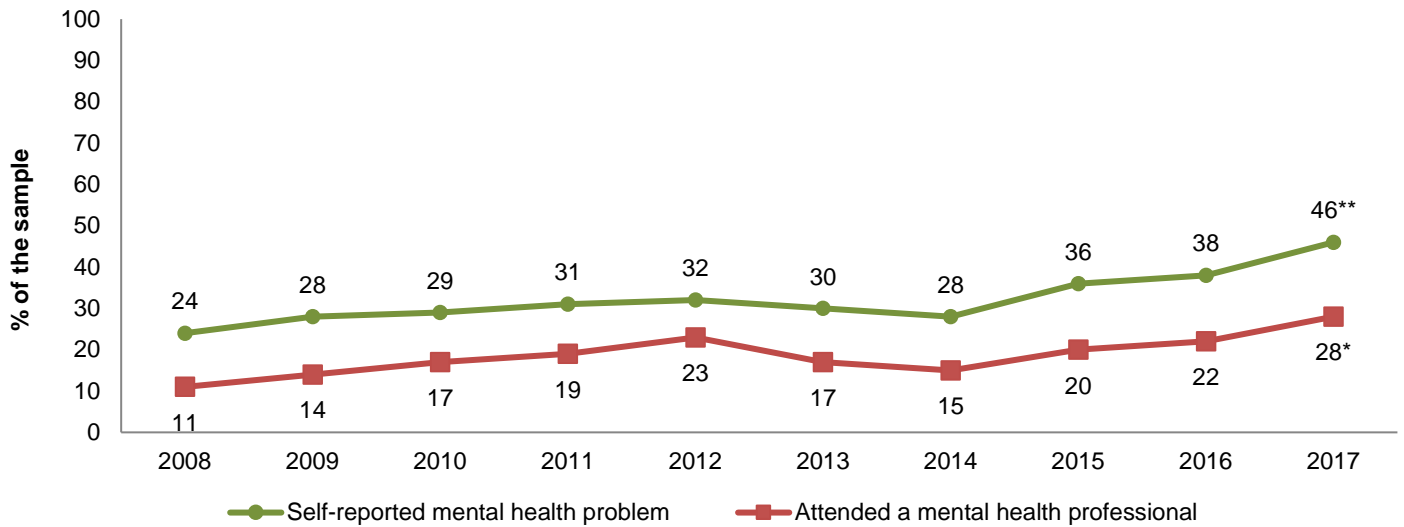
Table 49. Percentage of the sample reporting self-reported mental health problems, 2016-2017

%	National N=795	National N=784	NSW n=100	ACT n=99	VIC n=100	TAS n=100	SA n=100	WA n=100	NT n=85	QLD n=100
	2016	2017								
% Self-reported mental health problem in the last six months	38	46**	48	43	45	47	58	38	41	43
Depression	24	31**	31	31	32	34	37	25	28	32
Anxiety	25	33**	35	30	29	35	40	28	34	34
Panic	2	4	1	3	0	11	7	0	4	6
Paranoia	3	4	0	2	1	10	6	1	2	7
Bipolar/Manic-Depression	2	3	2	3	2	5	3	1	0	5
ADHD	3	5	4	5	3	2	4	6	2	9
Post-traumatic stress disorder	2	4	0	5	3	5	8	2	1	6
% Attended a mental health professional	22	28*	29	29	26	27	32	23	26	29

Source: EDRS participant interviews

Other mental health issues: OCD (2%), mania (2%), phobias (1%), any personality disorder (2%), schizophrenia (<1%), drug-induced psychosis (2%), other psychosis (<1%), other mental health problem (4%).

Figure 13: Percentage of the sample reporting self-reported mental health problems and help-seeking, 2008-2017



Source: EDRS participant interviews

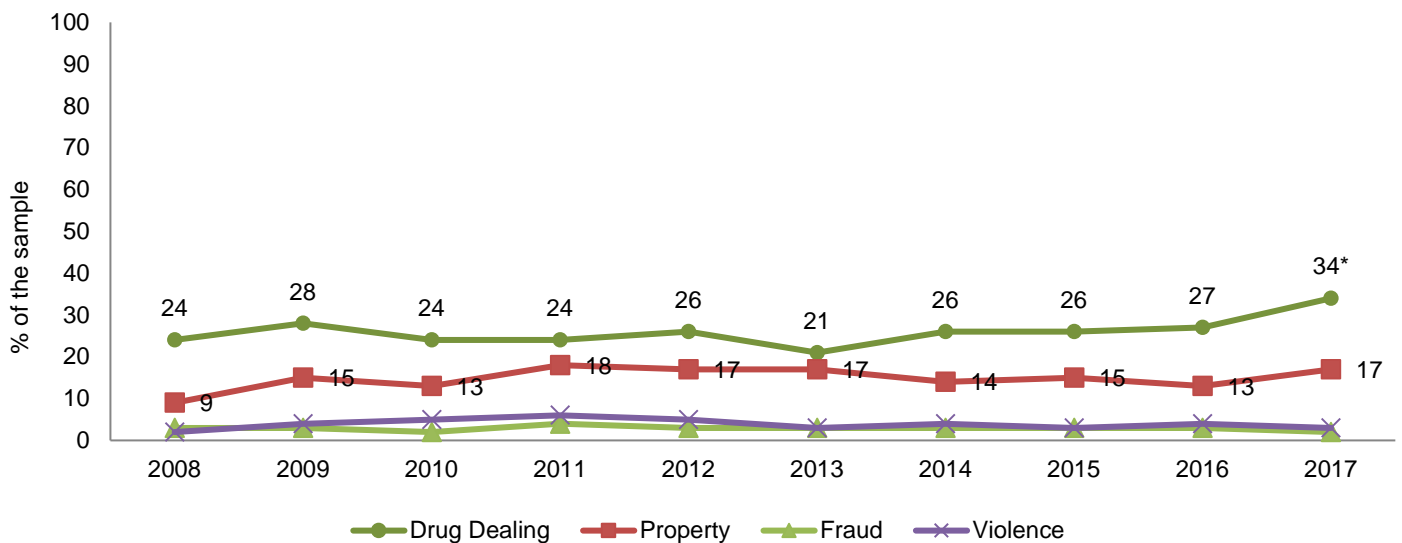
Criminal activity

Table 50. Percentage of the sample reporting criminal activity, 2016-2017

	National N=795	National N=785	NSW n=100	ACT n=100	VIC n=100	TAS n=100	SA n=100	WA n=100	NT n=85	QLD n=100
	2016	2017								
% Crime in the last month										
Drug dealing	27	34*	30	38	24	26	42	41	30	37
Property	13	17	18	24	21	20	10	13	8	19
Fraud	3	2	0	1	3	2	1	1	1	3
Violence	4	3	3	6	1	3	2	2	7	4
% Any crime	36	43**	41	50	39	41	43	48	37	45
% Arrested last 12 months	10	10	9	11	9	12	4	8	13	12
% Lifetime prison history	4	2	3	3	1	2	1	2	4	3

Source: EDRS participant interviews

Figure 14: Percentage of the sample reporting criminal activity, 2008-2017



Source: EDRS participant interviews