



Key findings from the 2014 Illicit Drug Reporting System

Medicine

National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre

Australian National Maritime Museum, Sydney
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Jenny Stafford and Lucy Burns



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Substance Misuse Prevention and Service Improvement Grants Fund

IDRS: Key results for 2014



Participant Eligibility



Injected in the last 6 months

In the “market” for the past year

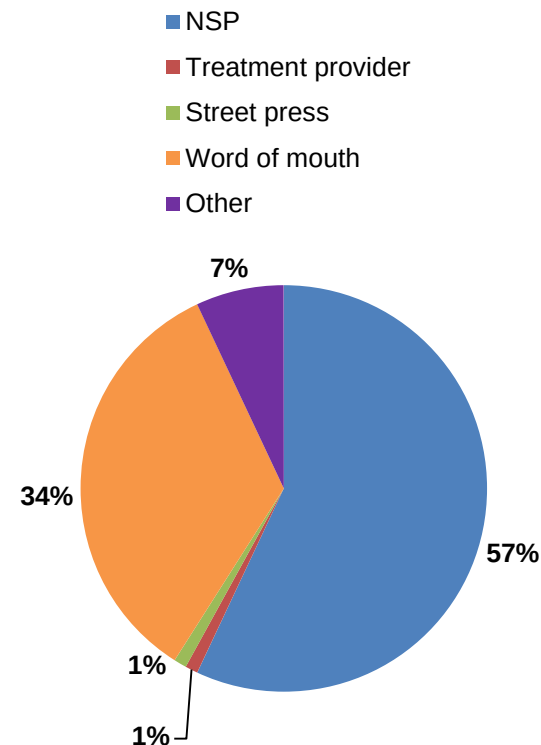
Sampled from needle and syringe programs, outreach, clinics, snowballing

Around 100 participants from each jurisdiction

Participant characteristics

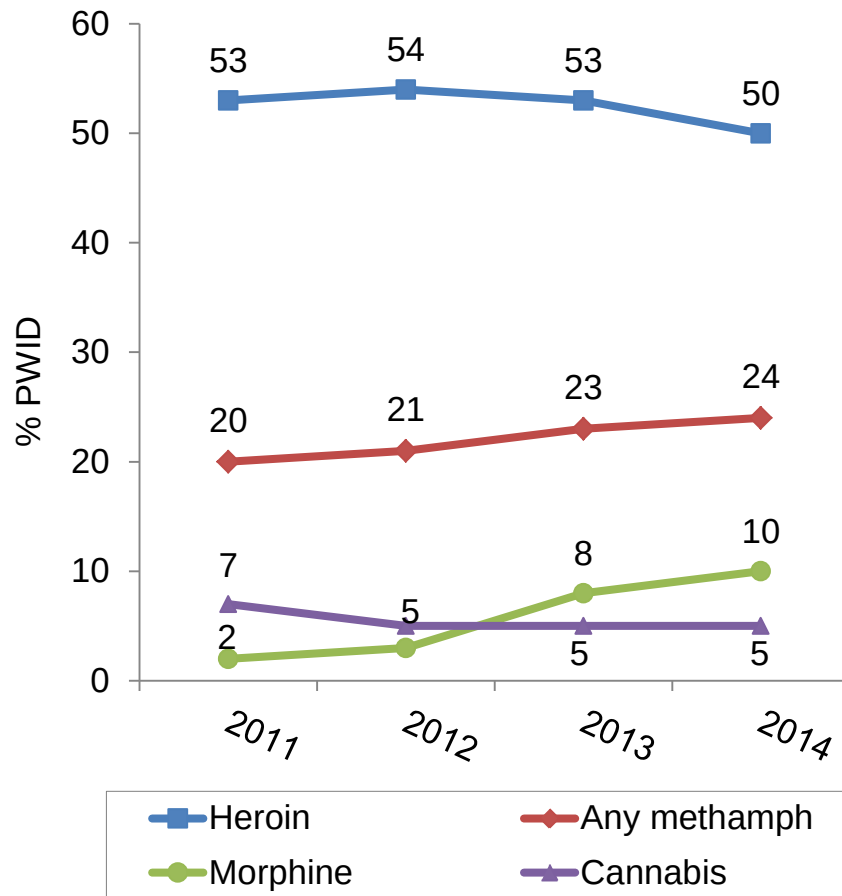
	2013 N=887	2014 N=898
Mean age (years)	40 (18-66)	41 (18-67)
% Male	64	69
% Single	53	56
% Unemployed	84	83
% Currently in treatment	47	47
% Prison history	56	55
Mean age first injected (years)	20	20

Participant recruitment

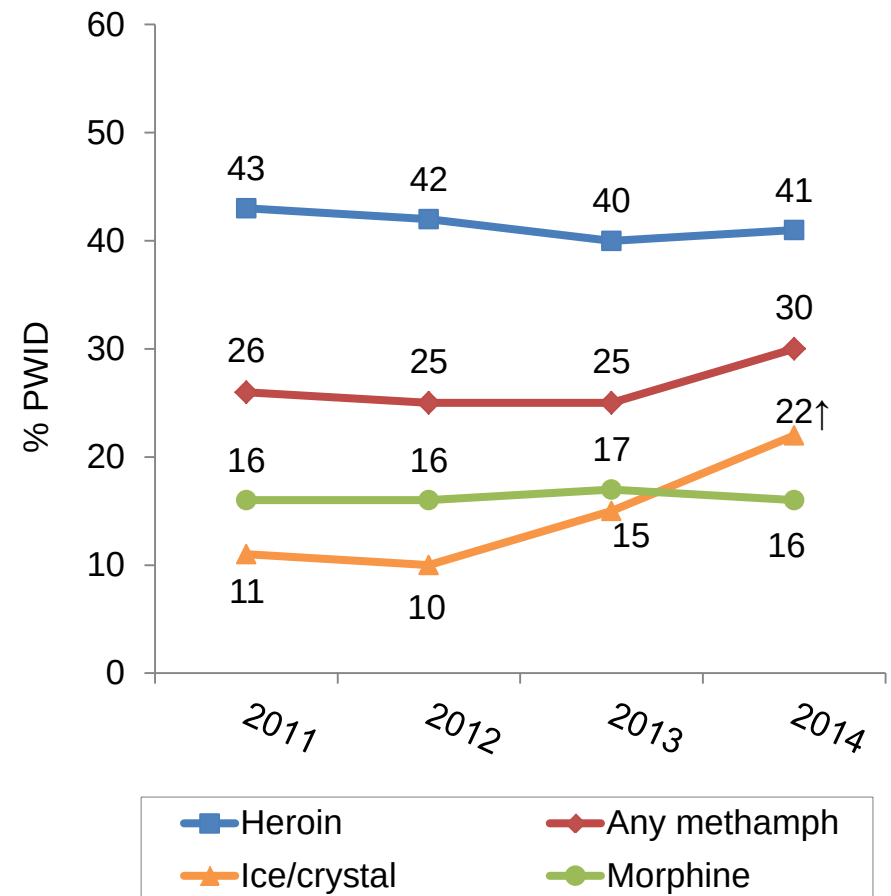


IDRS:

Drug of choice (%)



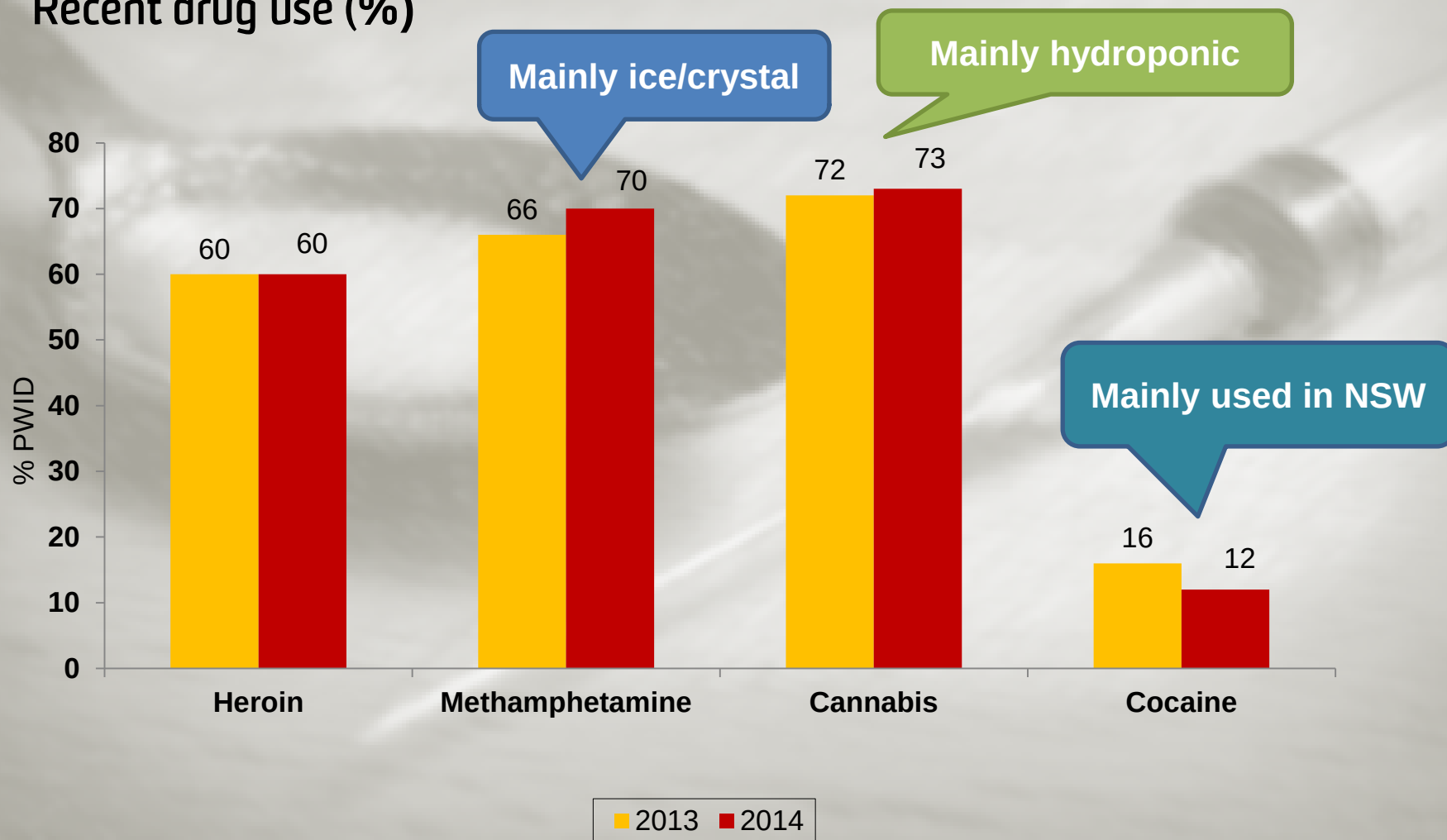
Drug injected most last month (%)



↑ Significant increase between 2013 and 2014 ($p < 0.05$)

IDRS:

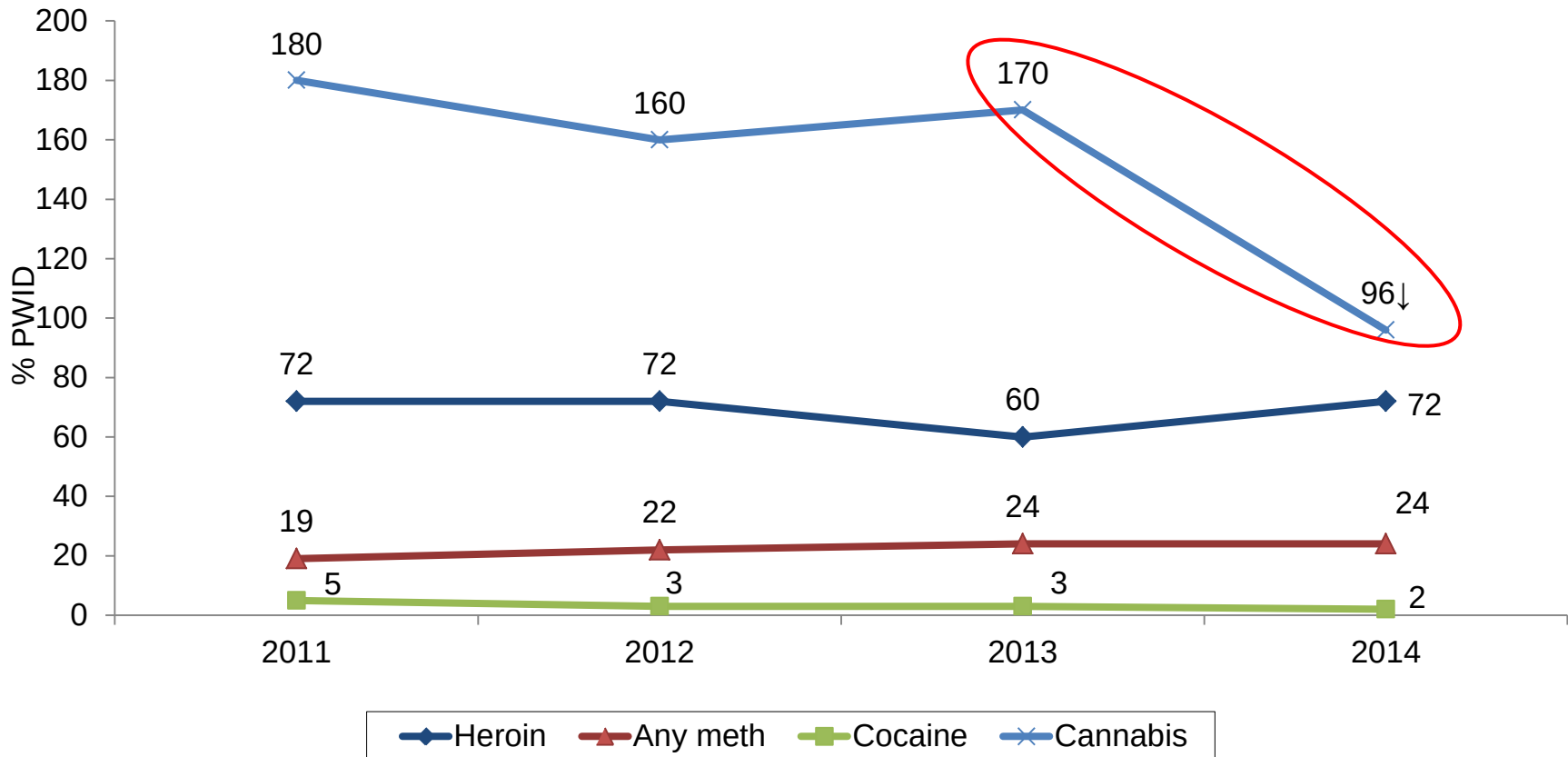
Recent drug use (%)



IDRS:

Median days of use (%)

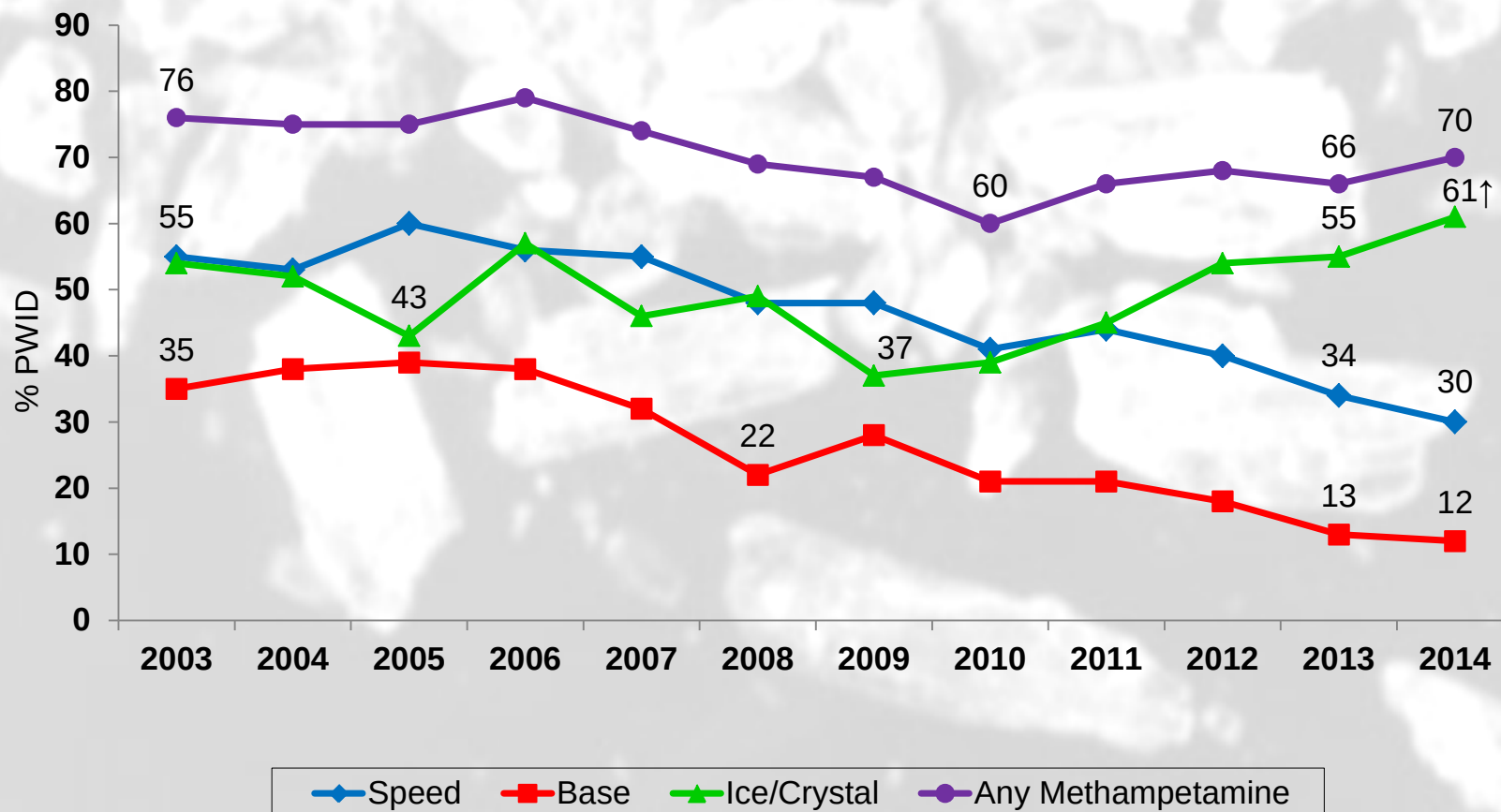
Significant increase - number of days recently used ice/crystal
12 days to 20 days in 2014



↓ Significant decrease between 2013 and 2014 ($p < 0.05$)

IDRS:

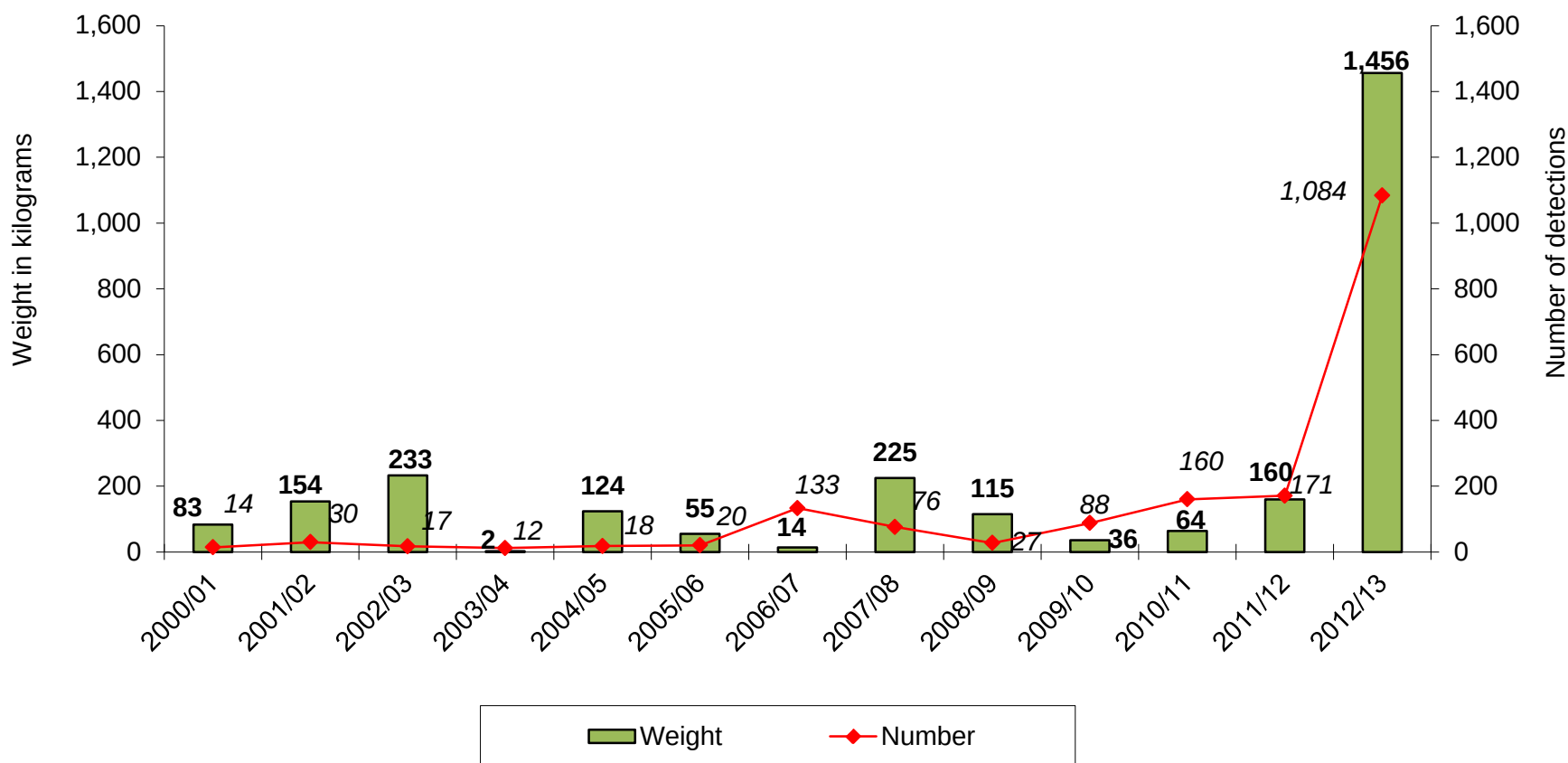
Recent methamphetamine use (%)



↑ Significant increase between 2013 and 2014 ($p < 0.05$)

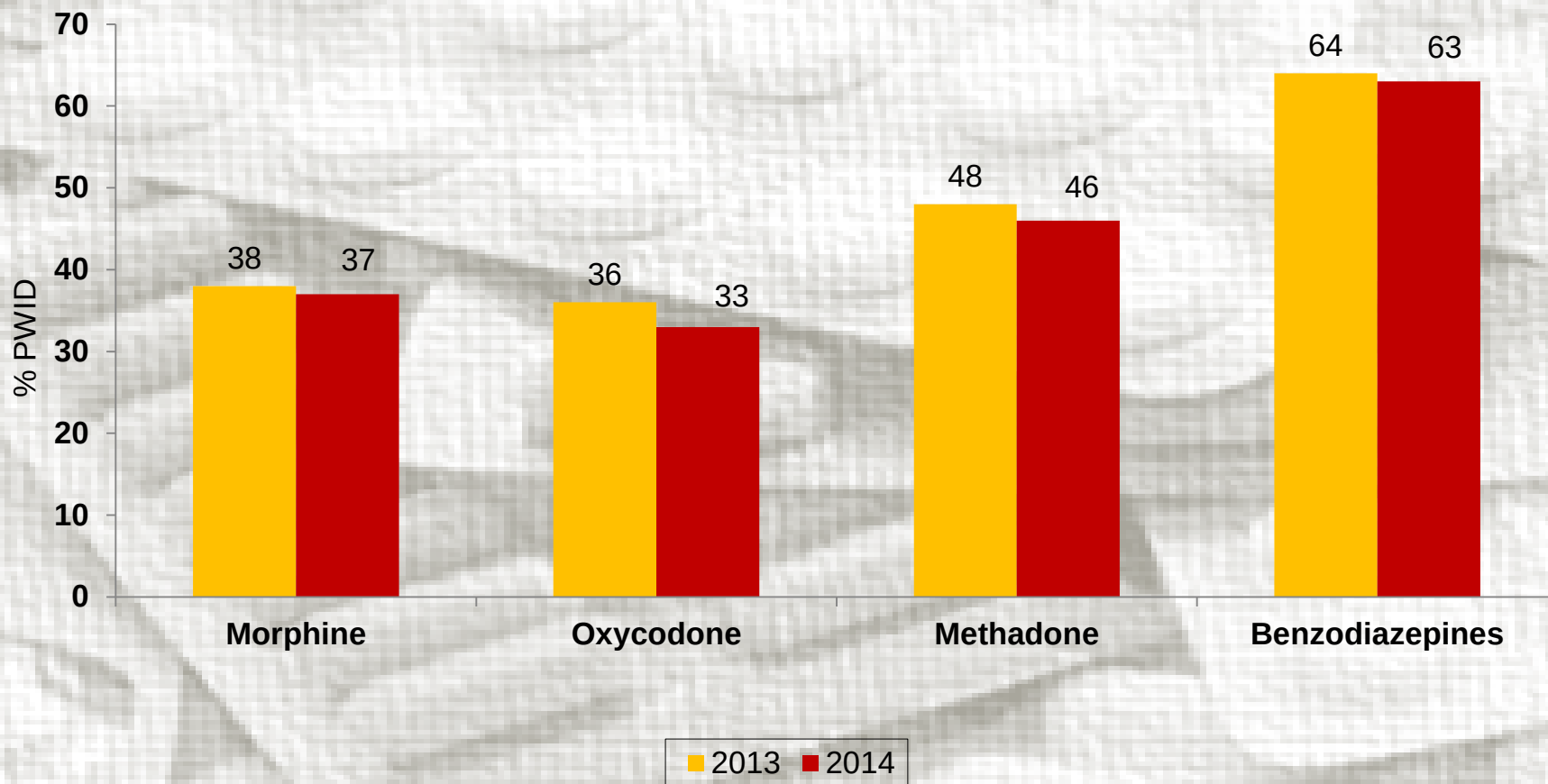
IDRS:

Indicator data – weight and number of detections of crystalline methamphetamine at the Australian border



IDRS:

Recent use of other drugs (%)

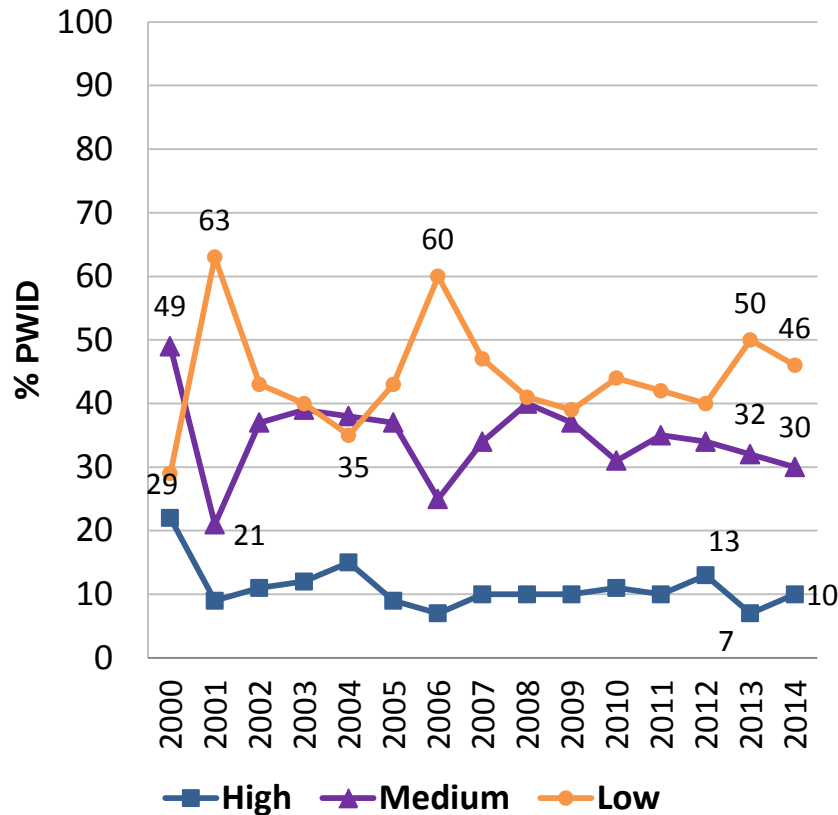


Purity and Availability

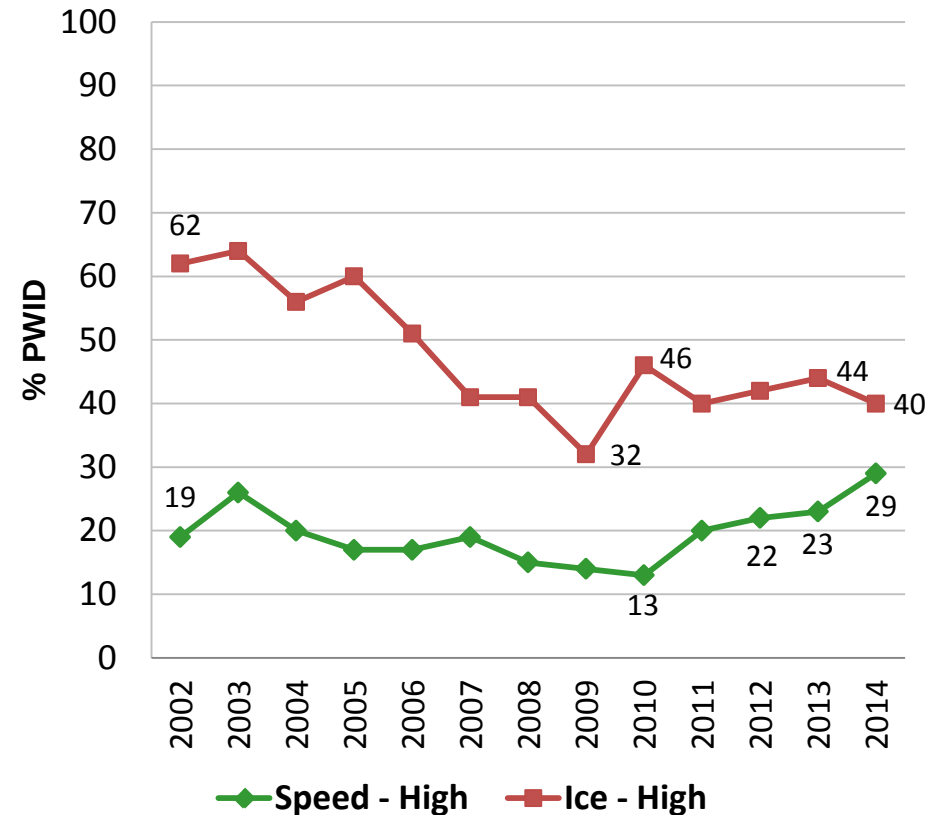


PURITY of heroin and methamphetamine

Heroin - purity

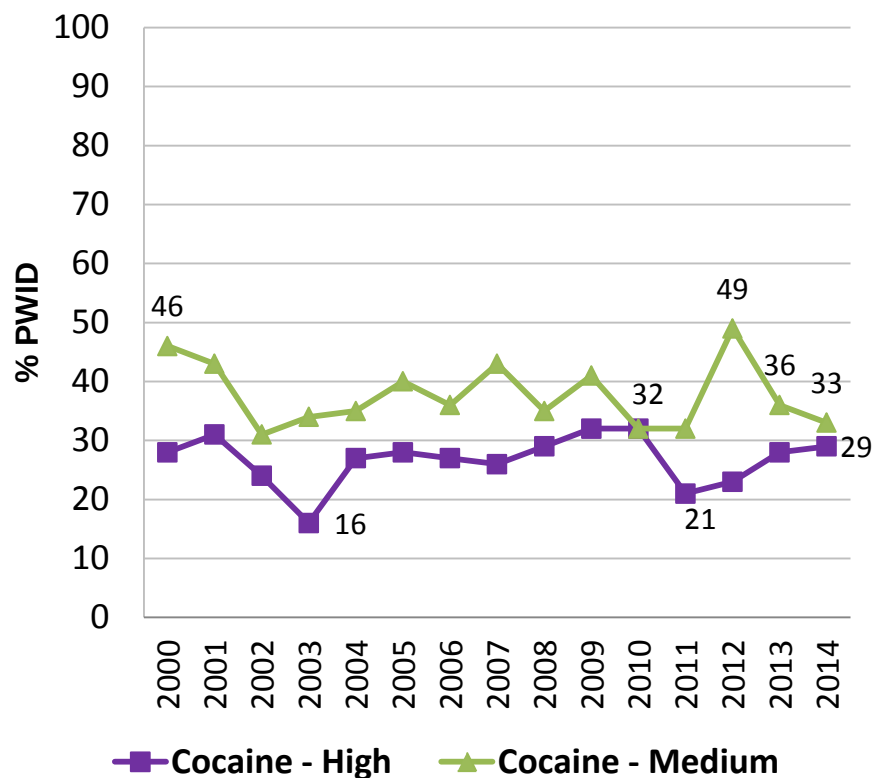


Methamphetamine - purity

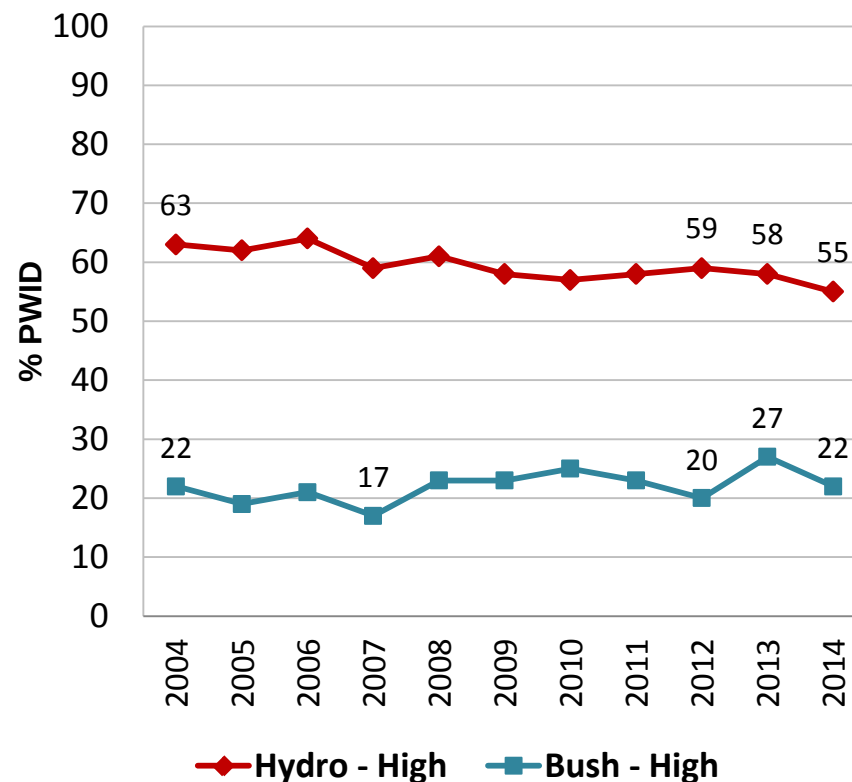


PURITY/POTENCY of cocaine and cannabis

Cocaine - purity

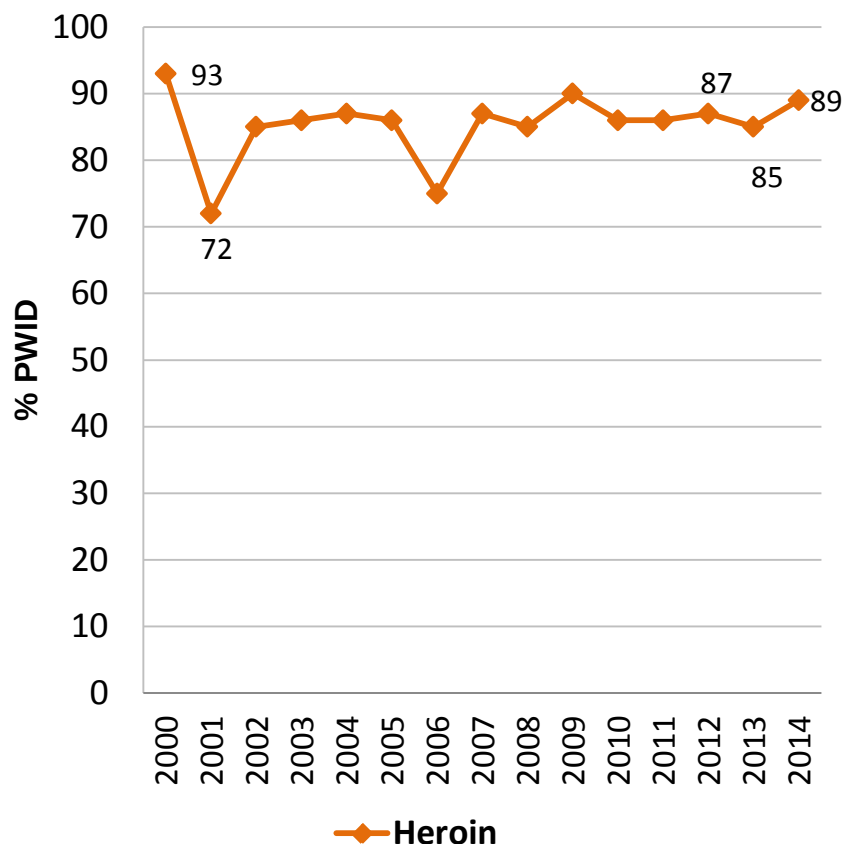


Cannabis - potency

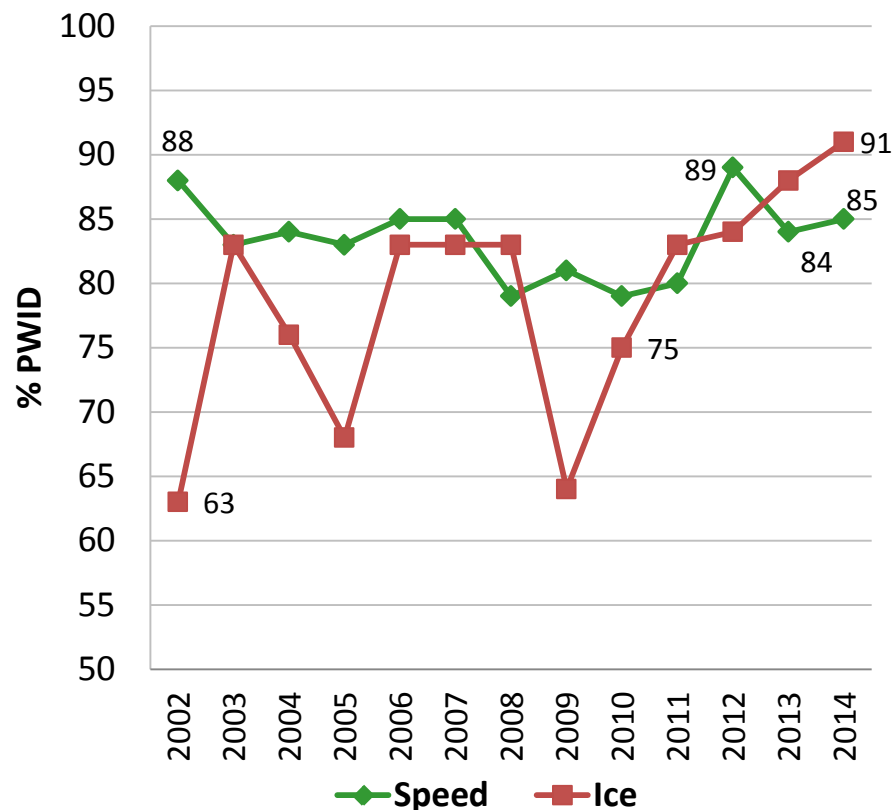


AVAILABILITY of heroin and methamphetamine

Very easy/easy to obtain

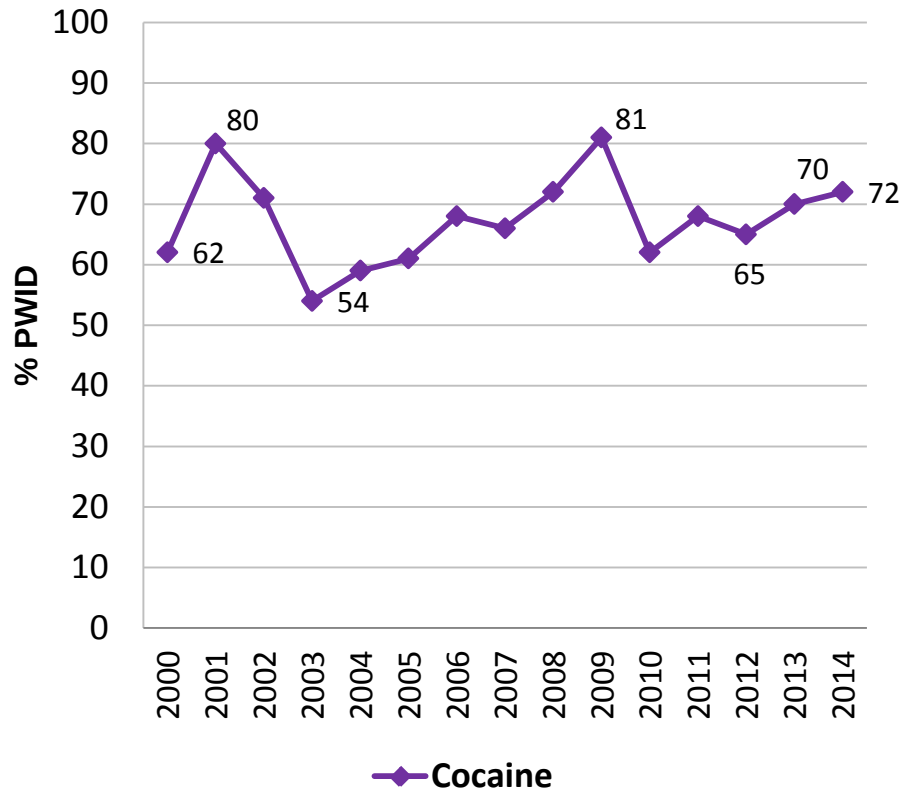


Very easy/easy to obtain

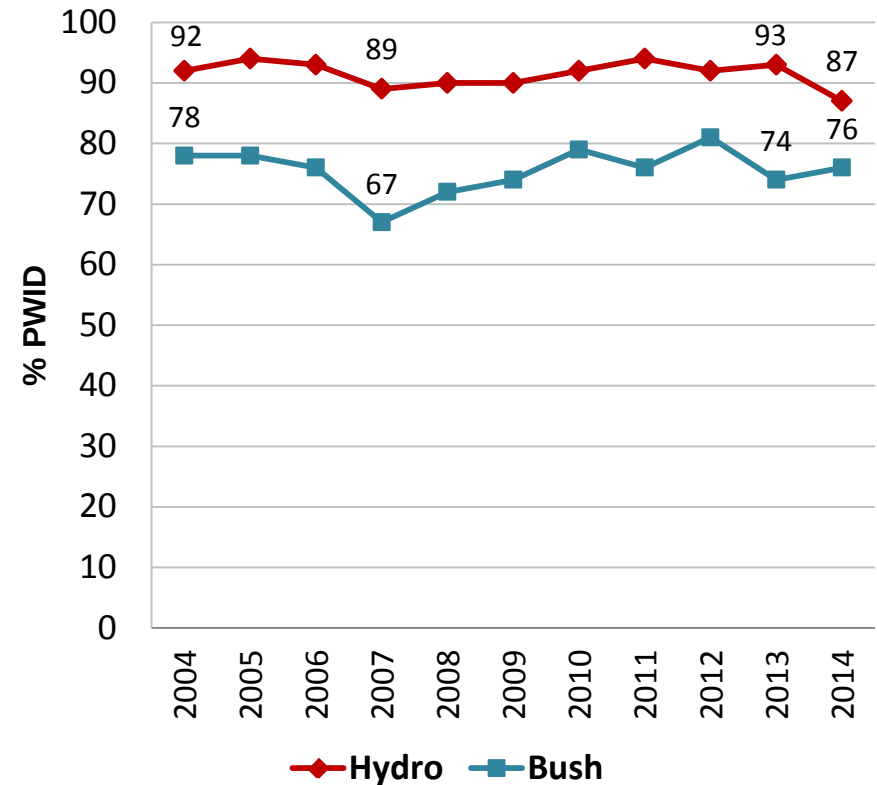


AVAILABILITY of cocaine and cannabis

Very easy/easy to obtain



Very easy/easy to obtain



Injecting risk behaviours, mental health and criminal activity



Injecting risk behaviour and problems, 2013-2014 (in the last month)

Mainly mixing spoons

	2013	2014
% Borrowed a needle	7	6
% Lent a needle	11	12
% Shared equipment (excludes needles)	24	25
% Re-used own needle	40	41
% Re-used injecting equipment (excludes needles)	52	56
% Scarring/bruising	37	37
% Difficulty injecting	33	37
% Dirty Hit	11	9

Self-reported mental health problems (last 6mths), 2013-2014

	2013	2014
% Self-reported mental health problem	44	44
Problem reported:	N=388	N=346
% Depression	66	68
% Anxiety	46	48
% Manic-depression	10	13
% Schizophrenia	15	15
Attended a health professional for self-reported mental health problem^ (%)	74	72

^ among those who self-reported a mental health problem

Criminal activity, 2013-2014

Crime in the last month:	2013	2014
% Drug dealing	23	25
% Property	18	18
% Fraud	2	4
% Violence	3	5
% Any Crime	36	38
% Arrested in the last 12 months	32	33

Recent ice use versus no recent ice use (in last 6 months)

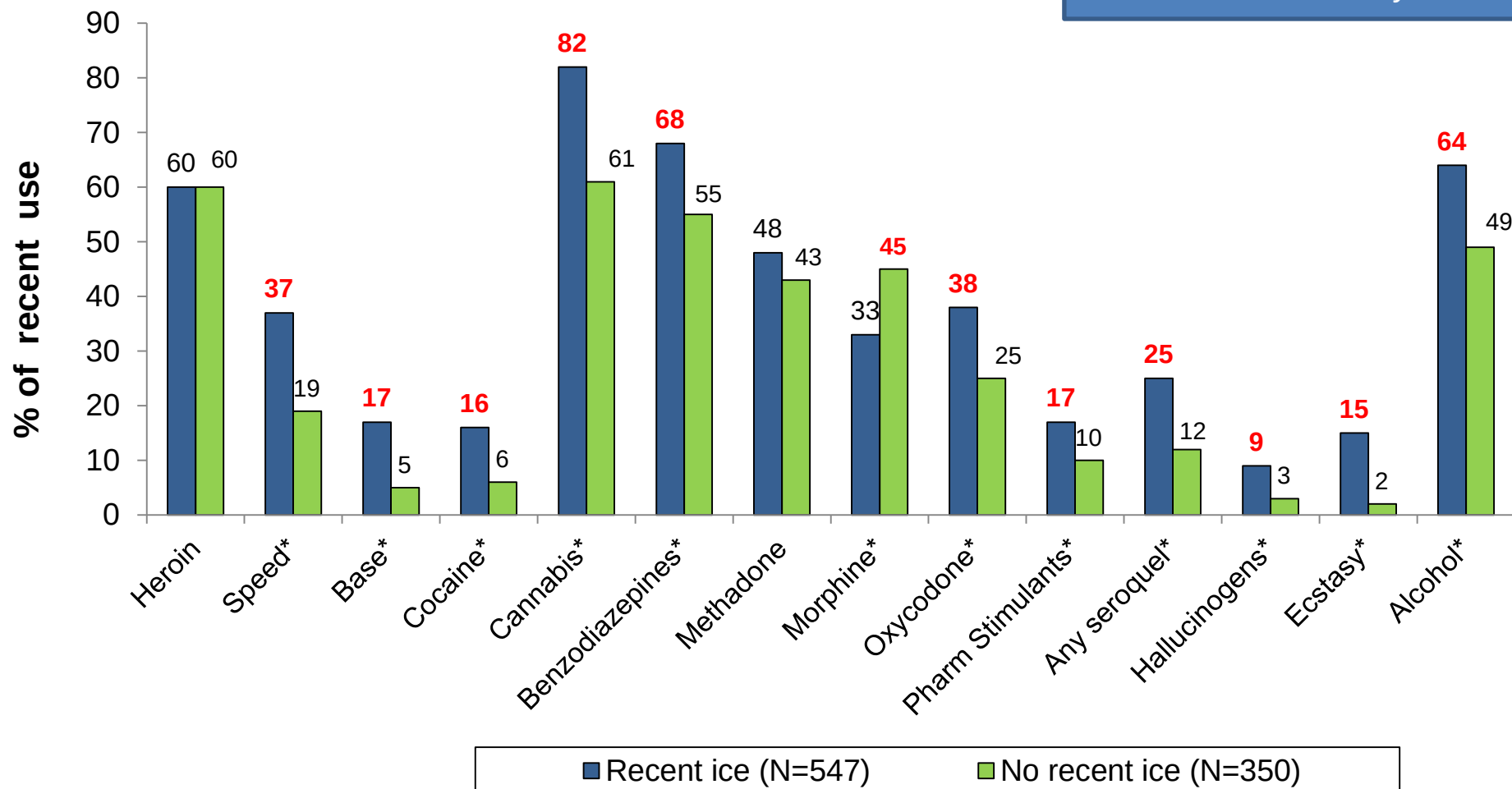
Recent use vs. no recent ice: demographics, 2014

	Recent Ice (N=547)	No recent Ice (N=349)
% Male	71	66
Median age (years)	40	43
% English speaking	95	96
% Single	58	52
% Heterosexual	89	91
% Unemployed	86	79
% Completed trade/tech qualification*	47	43
% Prison history	58	54
% Currently in drug treatment	48	45

* Significant difference ($p < 0.05$)

Recent ice vs. no recent ice: recent drug use, 2014

Mean age first injected
Recent ice – 19 years
No recent Ice – 21 years



* Significant difference (p<0.05)

Recent ice vs. no recent ice: injecting risk behaviours, 2014

	Recent Ice (N=547)	No recent Ice (N=349)
Mainly mixing spoons		
% Borrowed a needle*	8	3
% Lent a needle*	15	7
% Shared other injecting equipment [#]	27	22
% Re-used own needle *	45	35
% Re-used own injecting equipment [#]	54	65
% Self-reported injecting problems	64	52

[#] includes spoons, water, tourniquets and filters

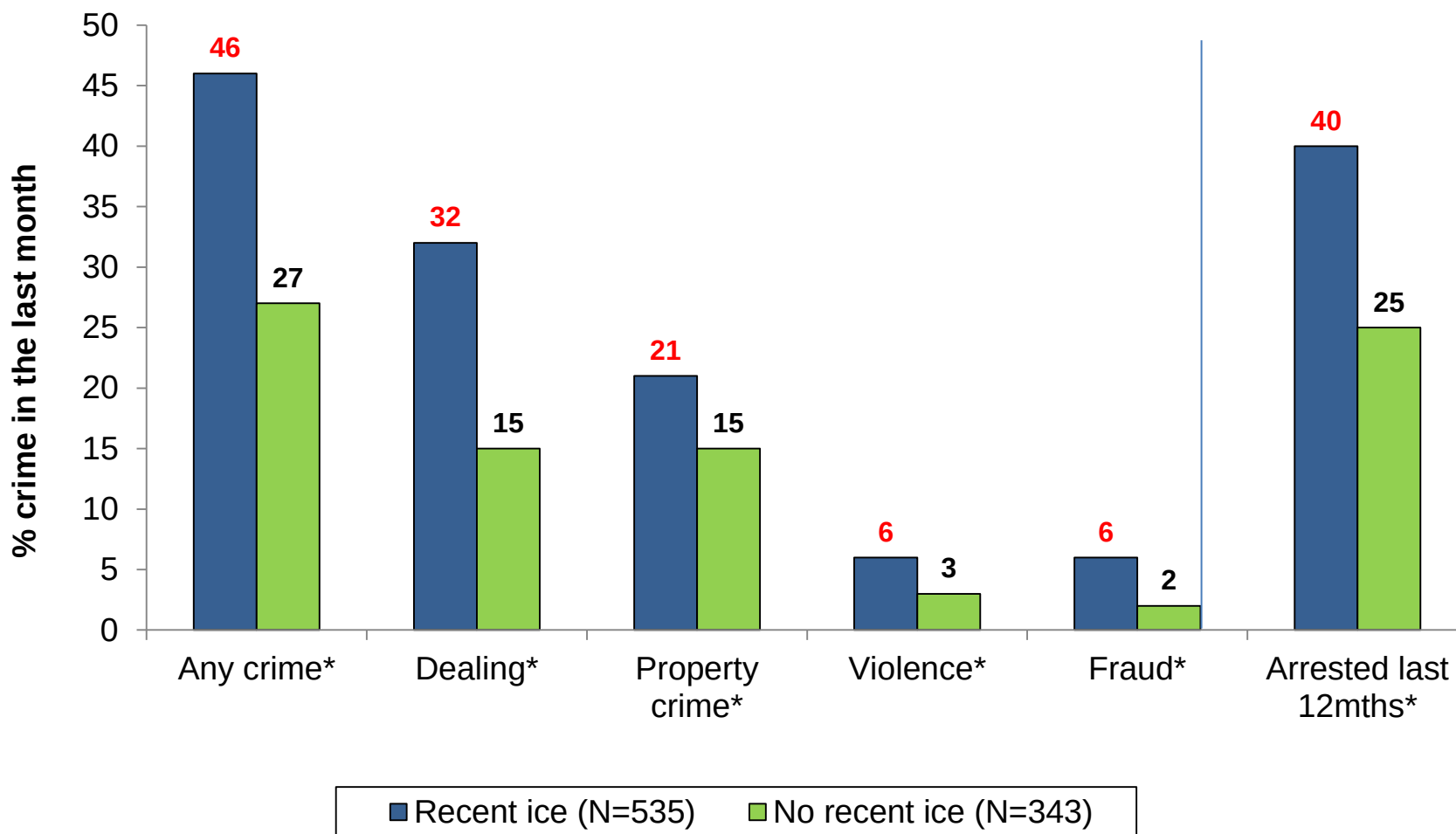
* Significant difference ($p < 0.05$)

Recent ice vs. no recent ice: Self-reported mental health problems (last 6mths), 2014

	Recent Ice (N=547)	No recent Ice (N=349)
% Self-reported mental health problem*	47	27
Problem reported:	N=253	N=94
% Depression	67	70
% Anxiety	47	52
% Manic-depression	12	16
% Schizophrenia	17	9
% Panic	11	11
% Paranoia*	9	2
% Drug Induced Psychosis*	9	1
% Attended a health professional for self-reported mental health problem	74	66

* Significant difference ($p < 0.05$)

Recent ice vs. no recent ice : crime in the last month, 2014



* Significant difference ($p < 0.05$)

(1) IDRS summary

Demographics

- Mean age 41yrs, mainly male, single, unemployed

Drug use

- Heroin main drug of choice and the drug injected most in the last month
- While there was no change to recent any methamphetamine use, an increase in use and frequency of use of the form ice/crystal was found
- Recent heroin and cocaine remained stable
- Recent cannabis use remained stable but frequency of use decreased

(2) IDRS summary

Purity and availability

- Purity varies by drug
- Availability was generally 'very easy/easy' to obtain for all drugs

Recent ice user

- Younger and unemployed
- More likely to recently use a variety of drugs – polydrug use
- More likely to borrow, lend and re-use needles
- Report injecting problems such as bruising/scarring
- More likely to self report a recent mental health problem
- More likely to report crime in the last month and an arrest in the last 12 months



For more information please visit the NDARC 'Drug Trends' website

<http://ndarc.med.unsw.edu.au/group/drug-trends>