



2014 Key Australian findings: psychostimulant drug market

Medicine

National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre

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National Drug Trends Conference

Maritime museum, Sydney

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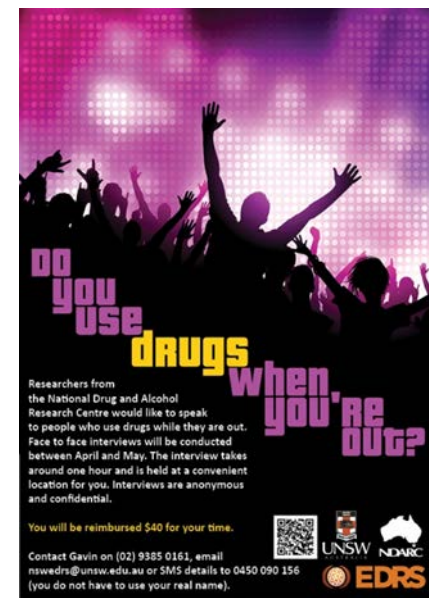
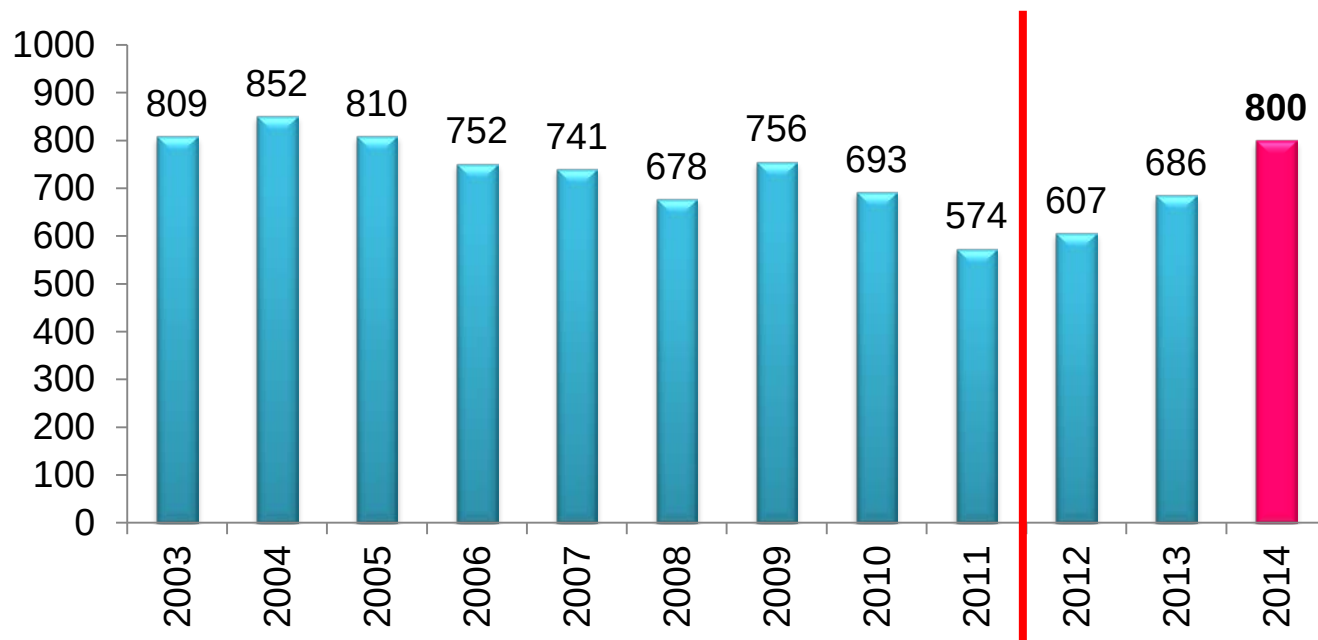
Funded by the Australian Government under the Substance Misuse Prevention and
Service Improvement Grants Fund



- Recruitment and demographics
- Ecstasy Market
- NPS and Synthetic cannabis market
- Methamphetamine market
- Other drugs markets
- Summary of main points

EDRS Recruitment 2003-2014

Number of EDRS participants 2003-2014



Source: EDRS interviews

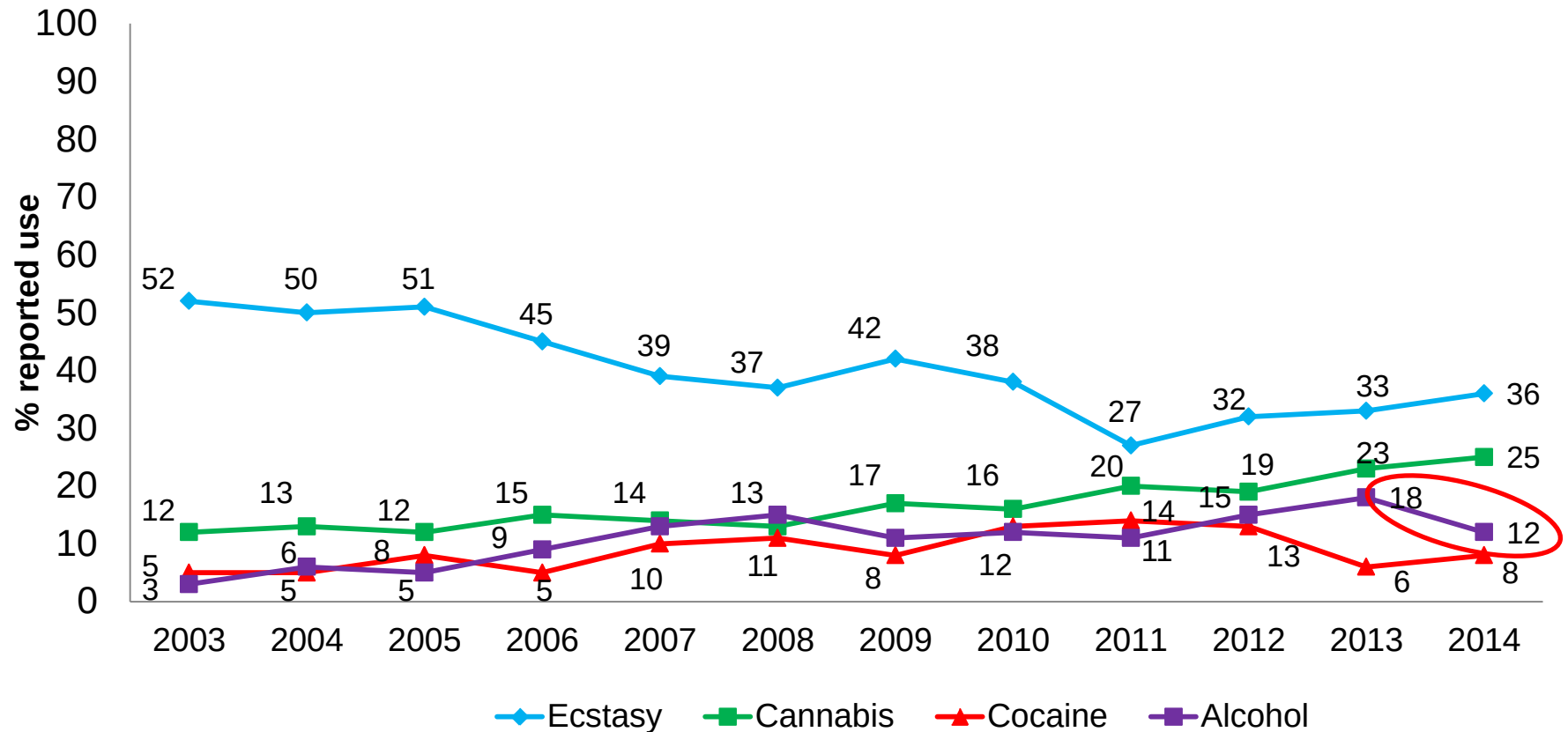
- NT criteria slightly differed in terms of how long resided in Darwin, reached 100
- Online became the most prominent way participants were recruited
- N=13 (2%) participants had not used ecstasy
- N=77 (10%) were not regular ecstasy users

Demographics of EDRS participants

- Mean age 23 years
 - Male (66%)
 - English speaking back ground (97%)
 - Heterosexual (89%)
 - Tertiary educated (46%)
 - Unemployed (15%)
 - Currently in drug treatment (2%)
-
- Proportions similar to previous years



Drug of choice, 2003-2014



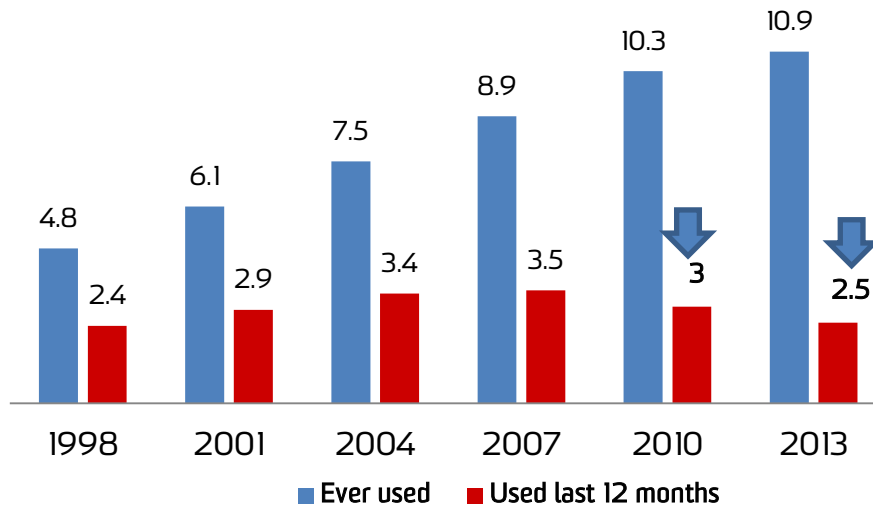
- Preference for ecstasy is steady at 36% as the drug of choice
- Preference for alcohol has significantly decreased from 18% to 12%, still in 3rd place

Ecstasy (MDMA) use and Market



Domestic trends for ecstasy, 2014

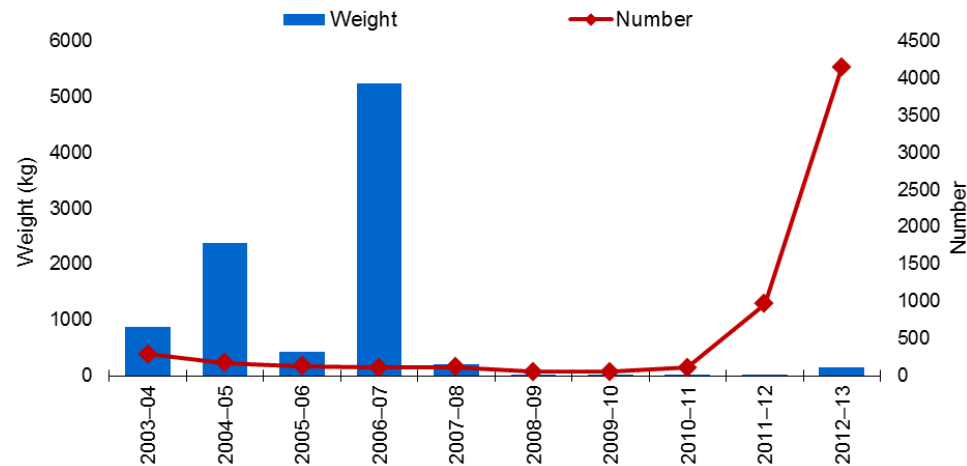
General population ecstasy use,
1998-2013



Source: AIHW, 2014

- Australian population use has decreased

Number and weight of MDMA detections
at the Australian border, 2003/04 - 2012/13



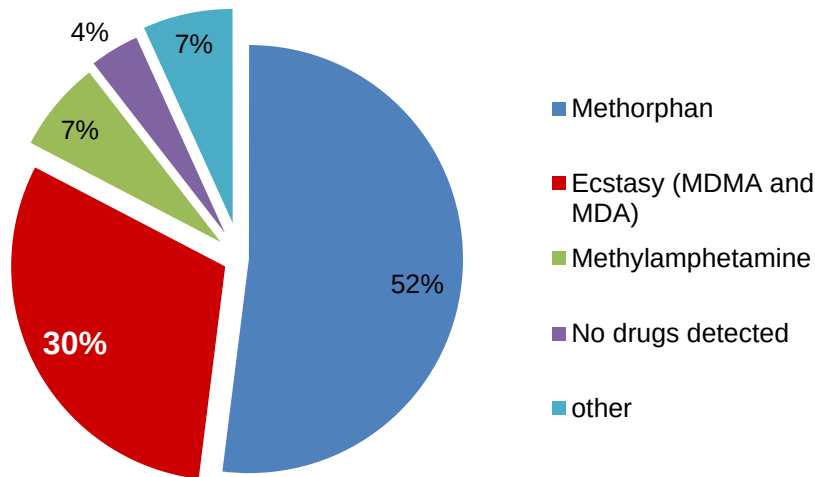
Source: Australian Customs and Border Protection Service

- At the border seizure numbers are the highest on record 2012-13

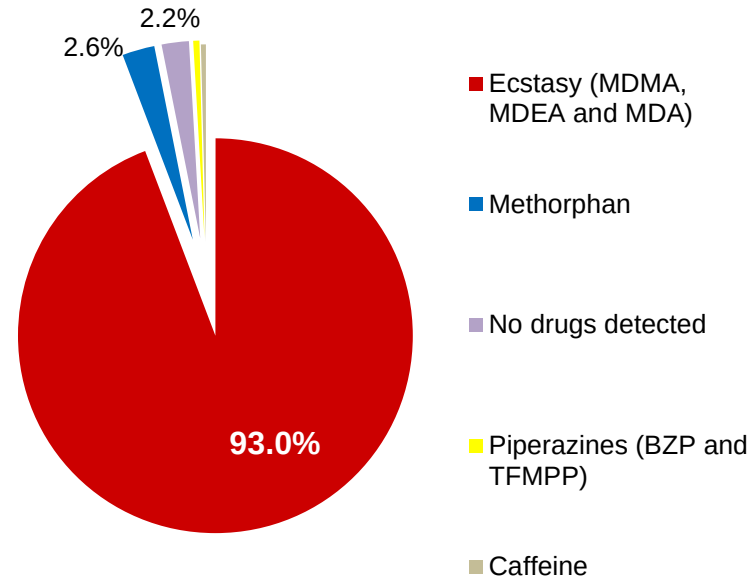
Illicit tablets seized by major drug type

Forensic purity and availability

July 2012- June 2013

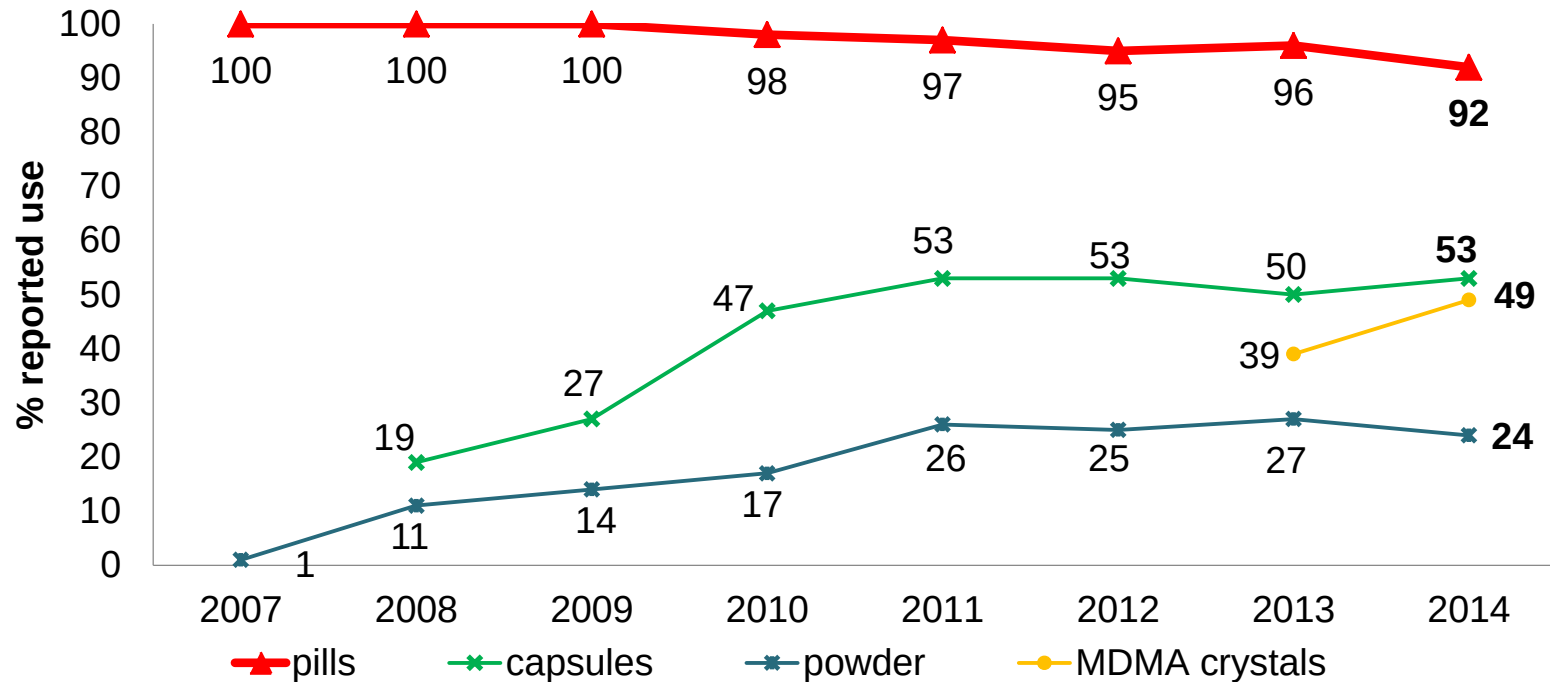


July 2013- June 2014



- Ecstasy is clearly the major drug type in illicit tablets seized
- Ecstasy pills are considered 'medium' (36%)

Ecstasy forms, 2014



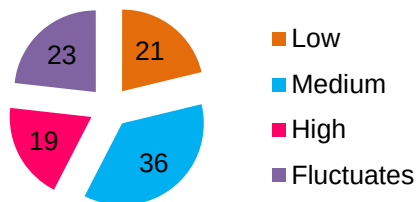
- Increasing use of MDMA crystals



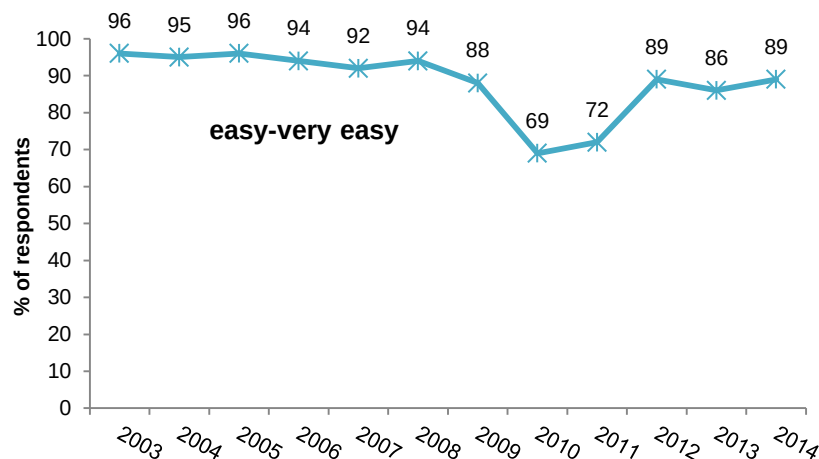
Ecstasy pills, powder, capsules

Price: \$25 per pill

Purity:



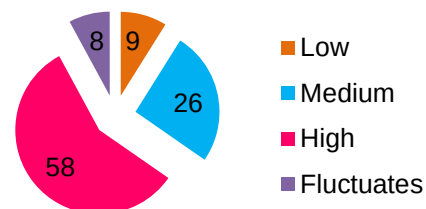
Availability:



MDMA crystal/rock

Price: \$25 per point, \$250 per gram

Purity:



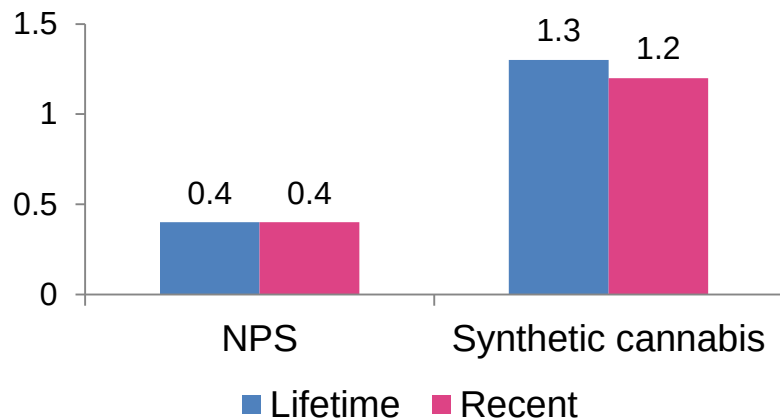
Availability: easy-very easy 68%



- Dark web found most ecstasy for sale was crystal/rock MDMA (44-49%) Agora & Silk Road 2.0
- Last use venue for both forms was nightclubs followed by live music venue/concert

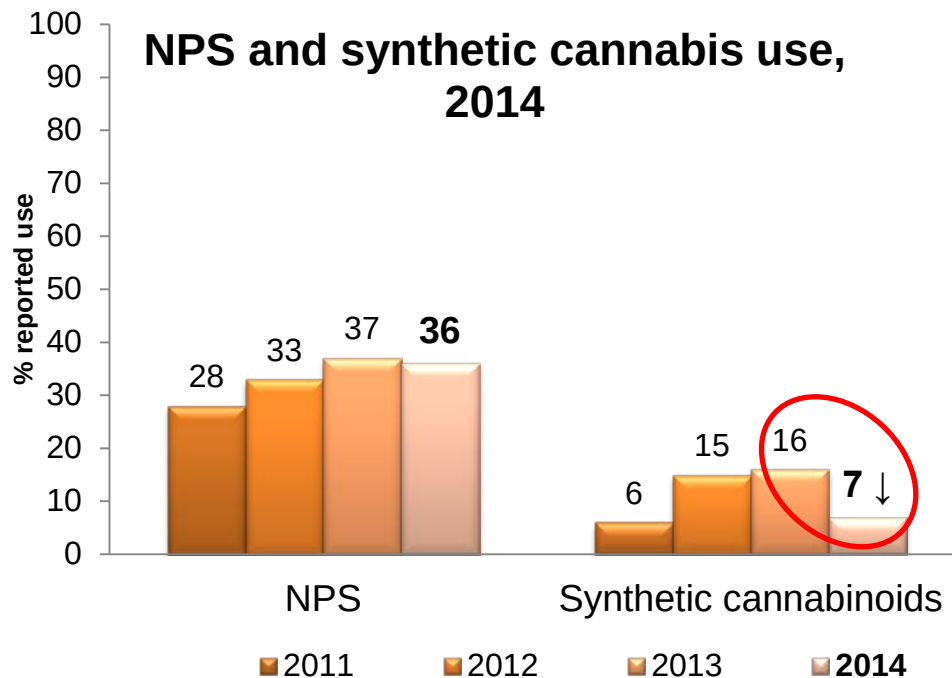
New Psychoactive Substances (NPS)

Population estimates of NPS and synthetic cannabis use, 2013



Source: AIHW, 2014

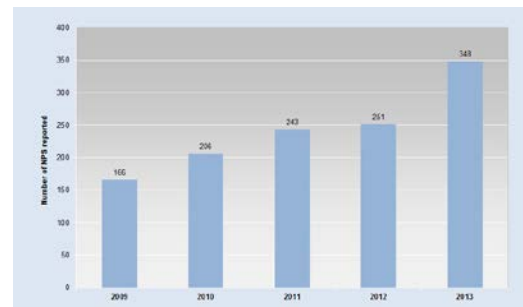
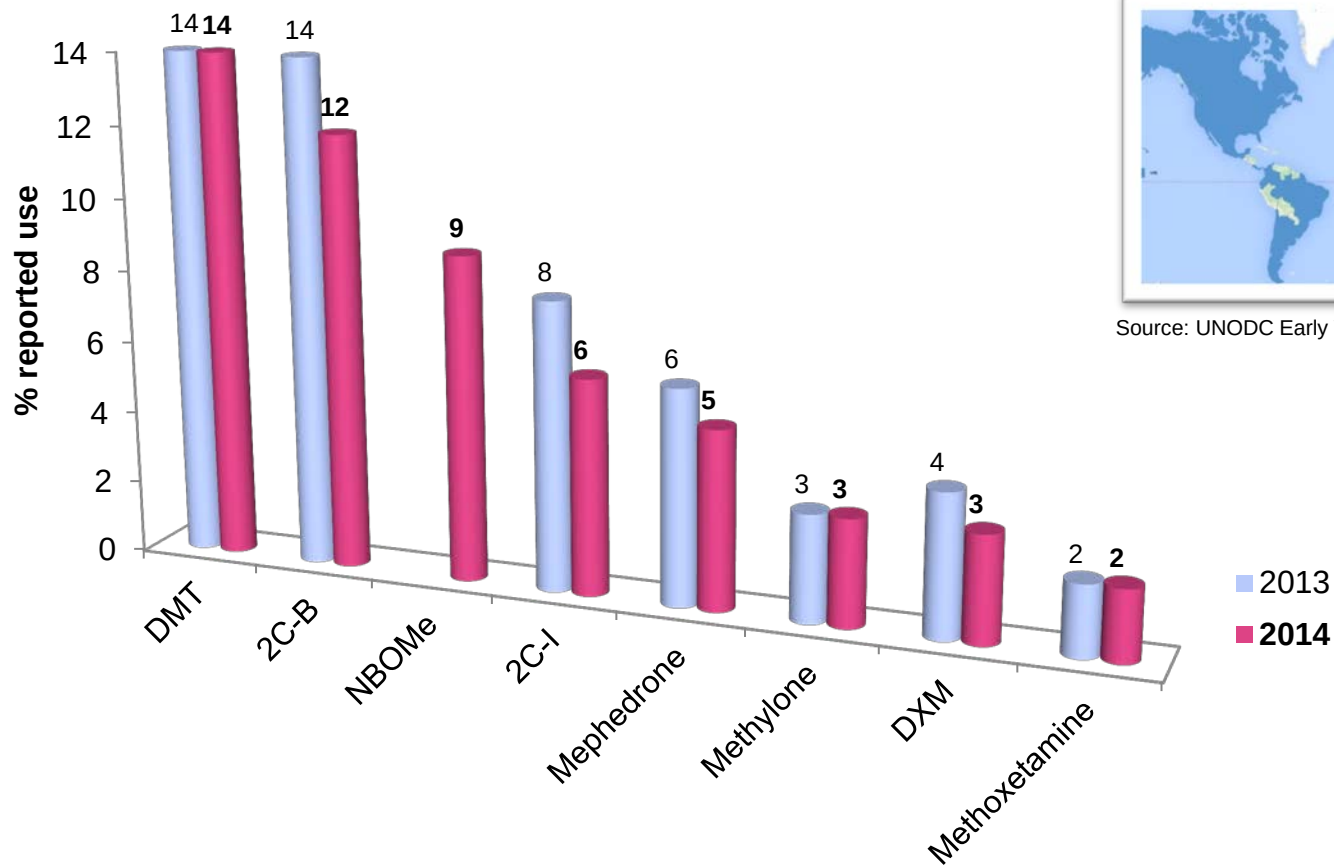
NPS and synthetic cannabis use, 2014



Source: EDRS interviews

- Population estimates for NPS and synthetic cannabis is low
- NPS stabilised and synthetic cannabis has decreased

NPS recent use, 2013-2014



Source: UNODC Early Warning Advisory on NPS, 2014



DMT can produce powerful psychedelic experiences including intense visuals, euphoria and hallucinations

Life time: 27%, Recent use 14%

Days of use: 1 day (VIC, WA, QLD)

- Comes in crystals or pills
- 93% smoked, 7% swallow, 3% snorted



49% sought DMT, 51% were offered DMT

Sourced mainly from friends (65%), dealers (15%) , given as a gift (9%), and online (8%)

NBOMe



MDMA, 25I-NBOMe,
Caffeine, MSM

- designed to mimic or produce similar effects to common illicit drugs such as LSD
- Implicated in the deaths of Henry Kwang and Preston Bridge

13% Lifetime use, 9% recent use
2 days (SA, WA, QLD)

91% swallowed, 4% smoked and 3% snorted

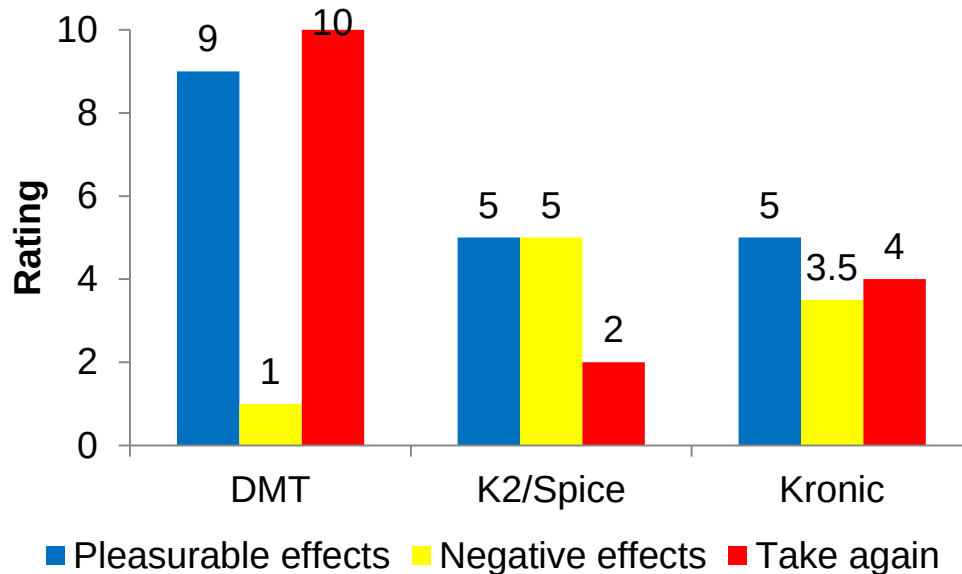
It was sought by 54% of participants and offered to 46% of participants

\$15-\$30 per blotter, \$20-\$25 per pill

Last source included: friend (53%), dealer (28%) and online (17%)

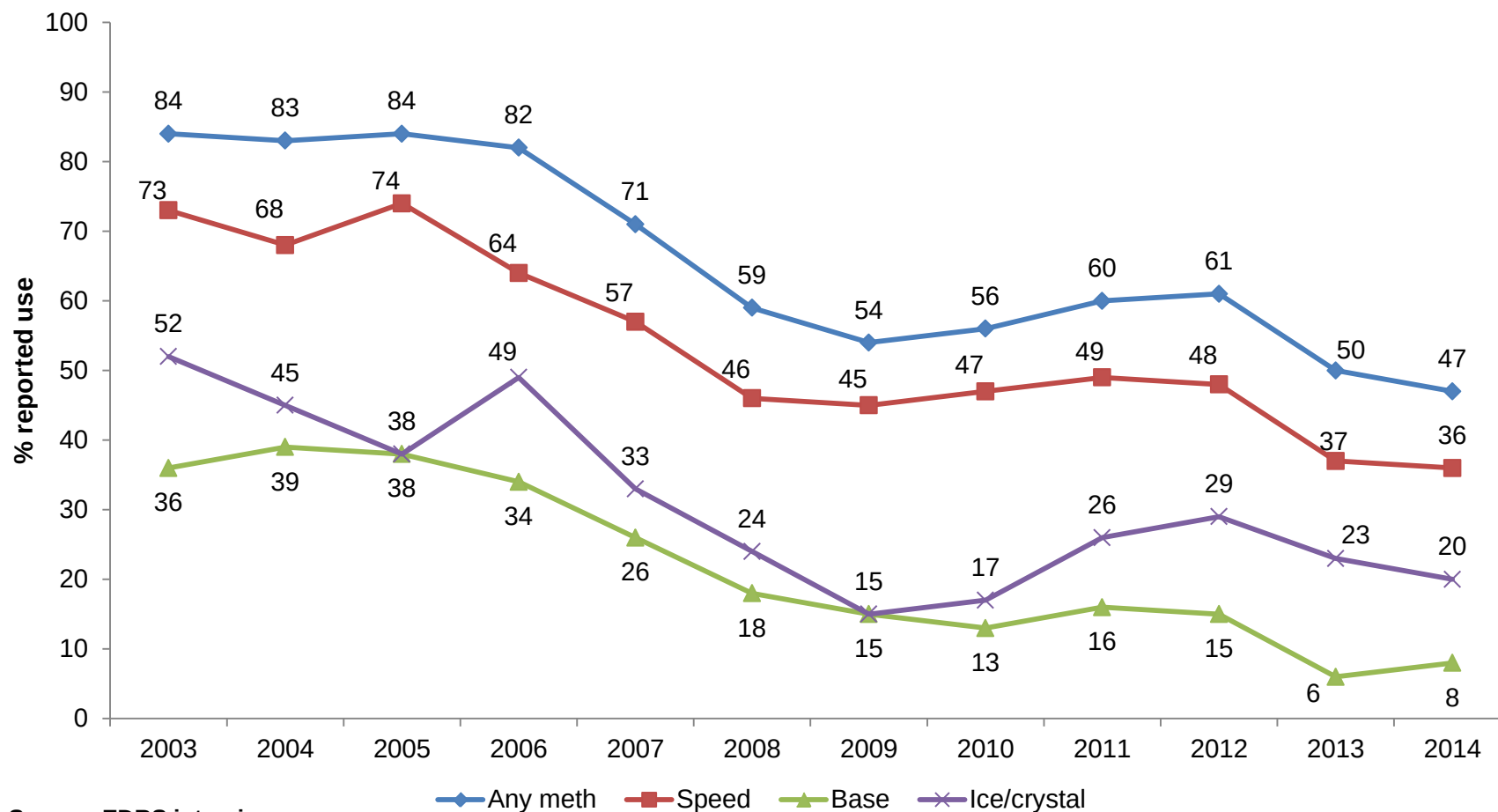
Synthetic cannabis

- Decrease in use particularly of Kronic
- Days of use still low at 2.5 days (last 6 months)
- Likeability ratings were low for synthetic cannabis in 2013
- Despite passing of law in October 2013, manufacturers still trying to get around it



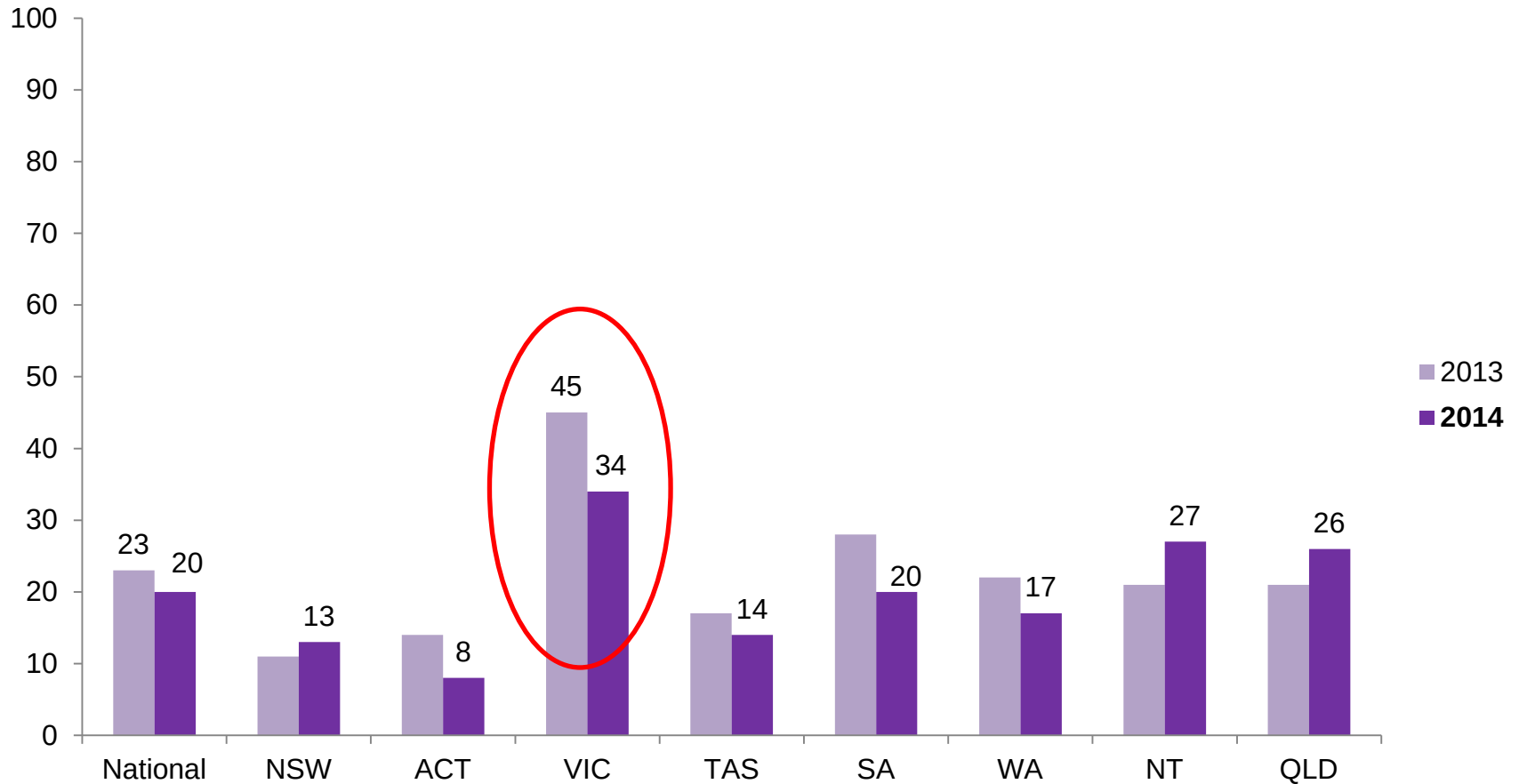
'Pure Sin 3g':
FUB-144 detected,
MSM indicated.
Packaging states:
Lab certified, no
banned chemicals,
does not contain
JWH-018, JWH-073,
JWH-200, CP-47,
497, C8-Homologue,
AM2201, and
MAM2201.

Recent Methamphetamine use, 2003-2014



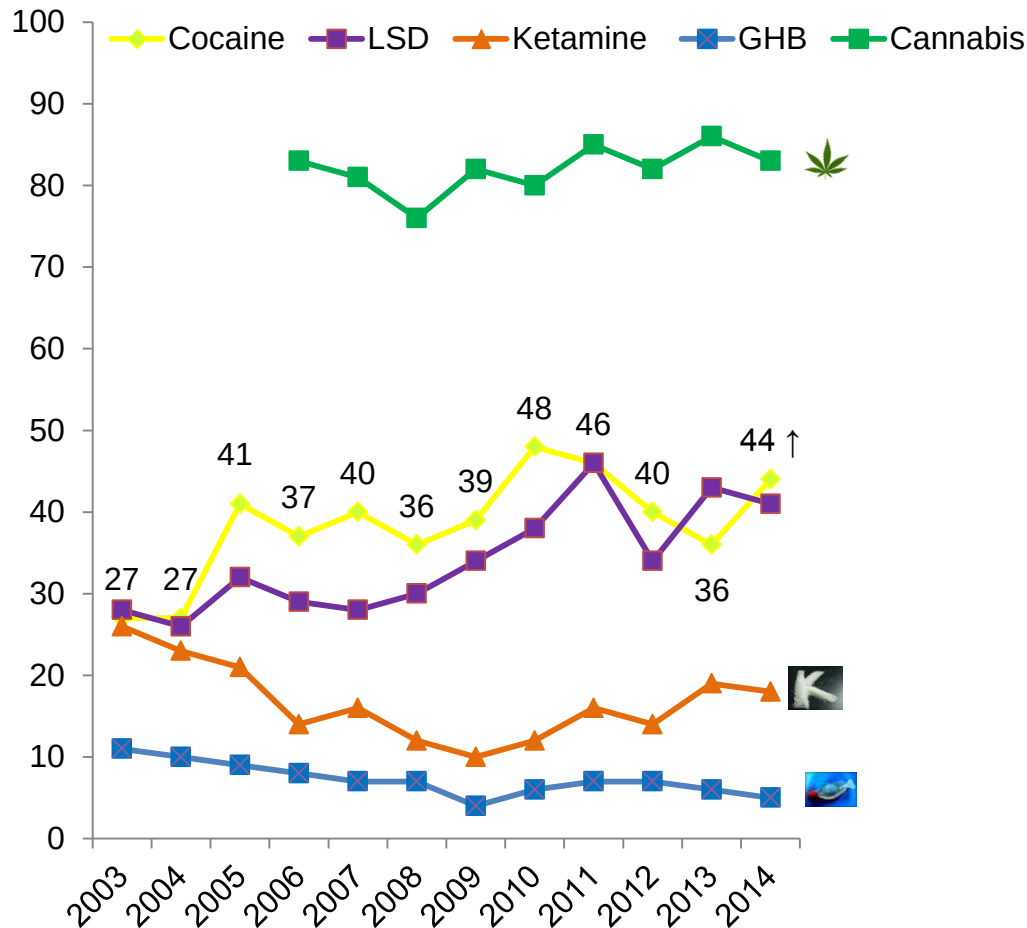
- Median days: ice/crystal 6 days, speed 3 days, base 5 days

Ice/Crystal recent use by jurisdiction, 2013-2014



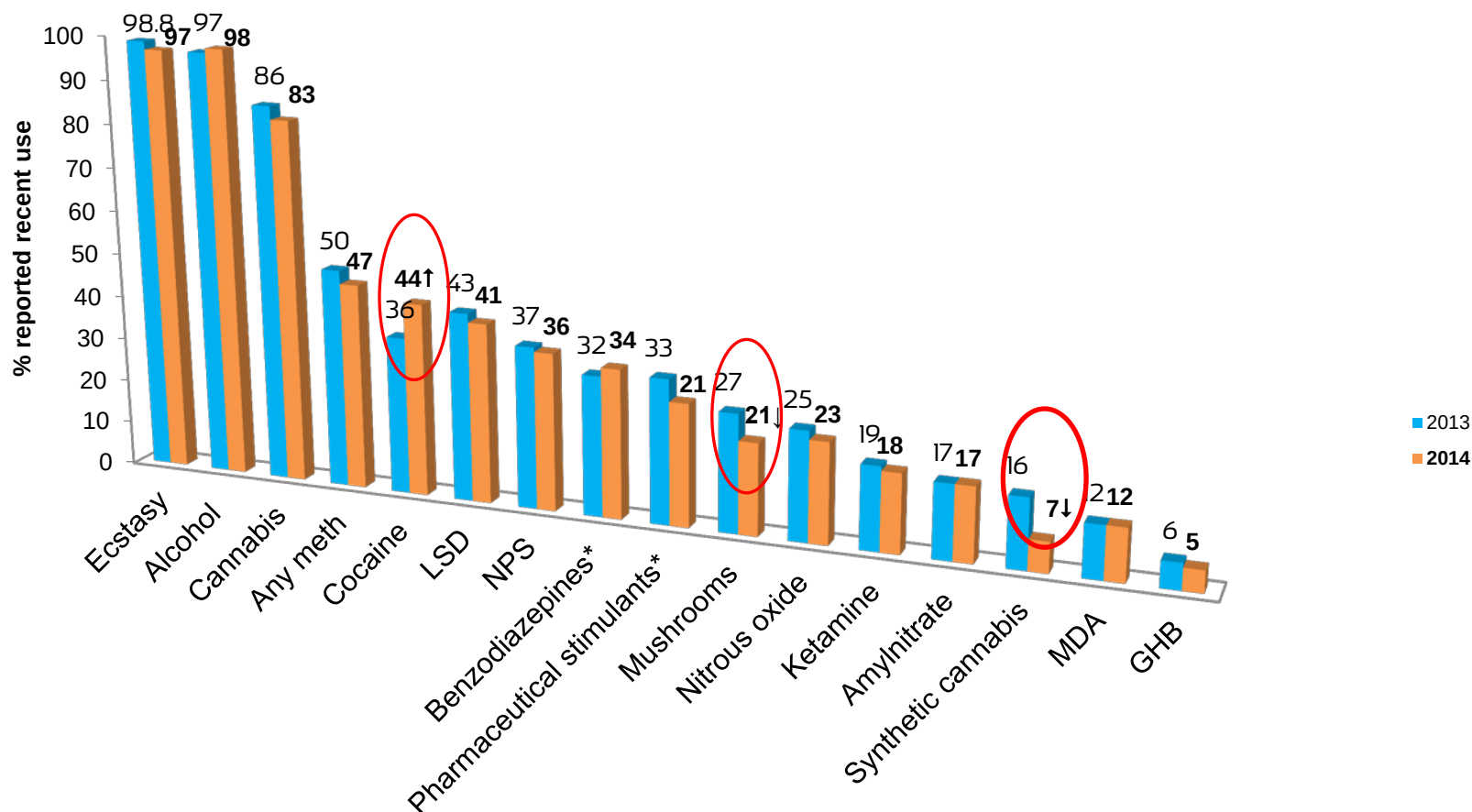
Days of use: QLD (12 days), ACT (8 days) , VIC (8 days)

Related drug use trends, 2014



- Cannabis stable on all fronts
- Cocaine has increased in recent use, no change in frequency or market characteristics. Indicators appear stable (values marked)
- LSD issue of mistaken identity with NBOMe and harms associated. QLD highest use, days of use low.
- Ketamine recent use nationally stable – recent use in VIC is high. Days of use low.
- GHB recent use still low, highest in VIC and NSW. Days of use low.

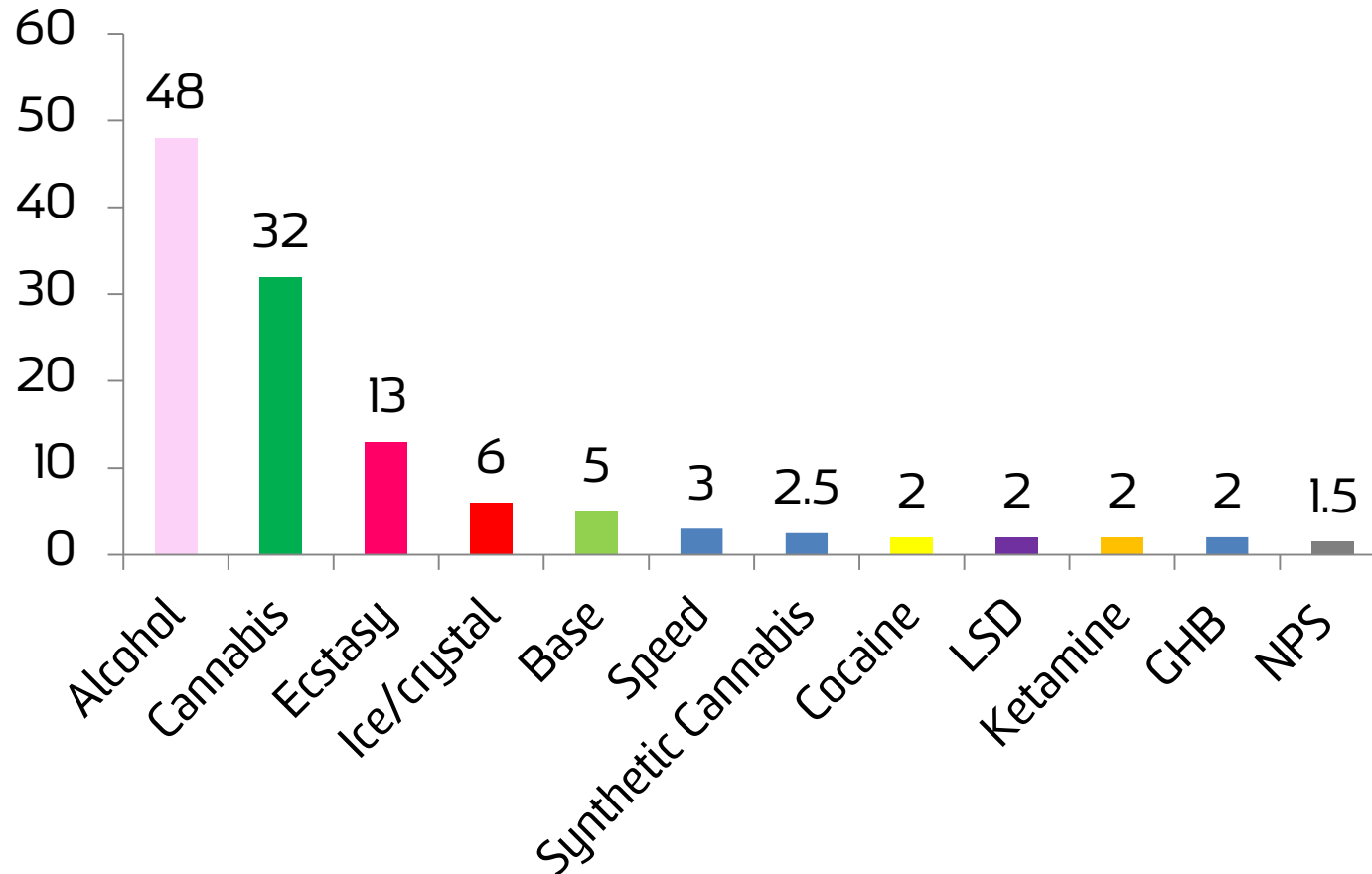
Snapshot summary of recent use, 2013-2014



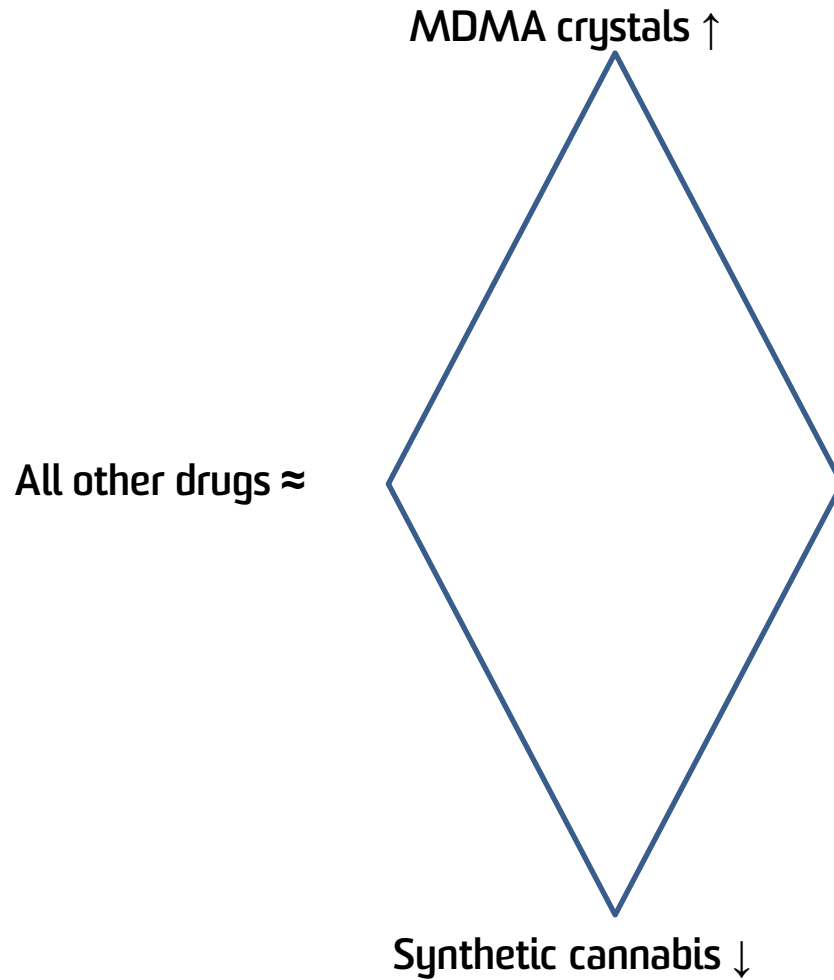
Source: EDRS interviews

* includes licit and illicit use

Snapshot days of use RPU, 2014



Summary: Key messages



Acknowledgments

Study participants

Agencies assisting with recruitment



Key experts

Agencies and individuals providing indicator data

Researchers and institutions across Australia

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