

Results from the 2012 Illicit Drug Reporting System (IDRS)

Medicine

National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre

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DRUG TRENDS

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Study participants

Agencies assisting with recruitment



Key experts

Agencies and individuals providing indicator data

Researchers and institutions across Australia

Current and previous national IDRS co-coordinator

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Aim

- Historical context of project
- Aims of the two systems
- Drugs of interest

Methodology

- People who inject drugs
- Key Experts
- Indicator data
- National Illicit Drug Indicators Project (NIDIP)

Findings

- Top line results
- Examples of findings: local & national

Background

- Funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing
- IDRS National since 2000
- EDRS is the sister project for recreational nightclub ('party scene') drugs focus on ecstasy and stimulants, conducted since 2003.

Aims of the projects

- To detect changing patterns of use and harm
- Document the price, purity, and availability of illicit drugs
- Monitor patterns of use, trends and harms over time
- Point to specialised/detailed research
- Provides an evidence base for policy

 **DRUG TRENDS**

 **IDRS**  **EDRS**  **NIDIP**

Drugs of interest

IDRS

- Heroin
- Others opioids
- Cocaine
- Methamphetamines
 - Speed powder
 - Base
 - Ice/crystal
- Cannabis
- Other drugs



Methodology

1

- Drug user interviews
- People who inject drugs (PWID) regularly on a monthly basis over past 6 months
- Face to face
- 100 participants in each capital city

2

- Key expert interviews
- Face to face or telephone interviews
- Regular contact with people who use drugs

3

- Indicator data
- Analysis and synthesis of population data
- Eg. Customs seizures, ambulance data, treatment, arrests

Case study: Katie* (Canterbury)



- Katie* is currently 28 years old and a sex worker
- Born in Canberra and as a young child was a Ward of the State.
- Started injecting when she was 12 years old- ran away from home and found refuge with an older crowd . She lent a guy \$50 and in return he said she could have the money or a shot. She took the shot.
- At 16 years when she became pregnant with her first child, she was placed on the methadone program.
- When the child was 2 years old, she was told there were better services in Sydney so she moved to Sydney.
- In Sydney she started working as a sex worker and lost her child to DOCs almost immediately. At 21 years she was diagnosed with spina bifida and scoliosis. This was 'Rock Bottom'.
- Six years ago, she met her ex-partner and he got her off drugs. Katie got stable and on a program and fell pregnant again.
- DOCs got involved again and the baby was taken out of the couples custody.
- Ex-partner has been returned custody.
- Currently, Katie* is motivated to start rehabilitation and has been approved to the MTAR service to end her habit with drugs and be granted access and possibly custody of her second child.

* Names have been changed to protect anonymity

Key results for 2012



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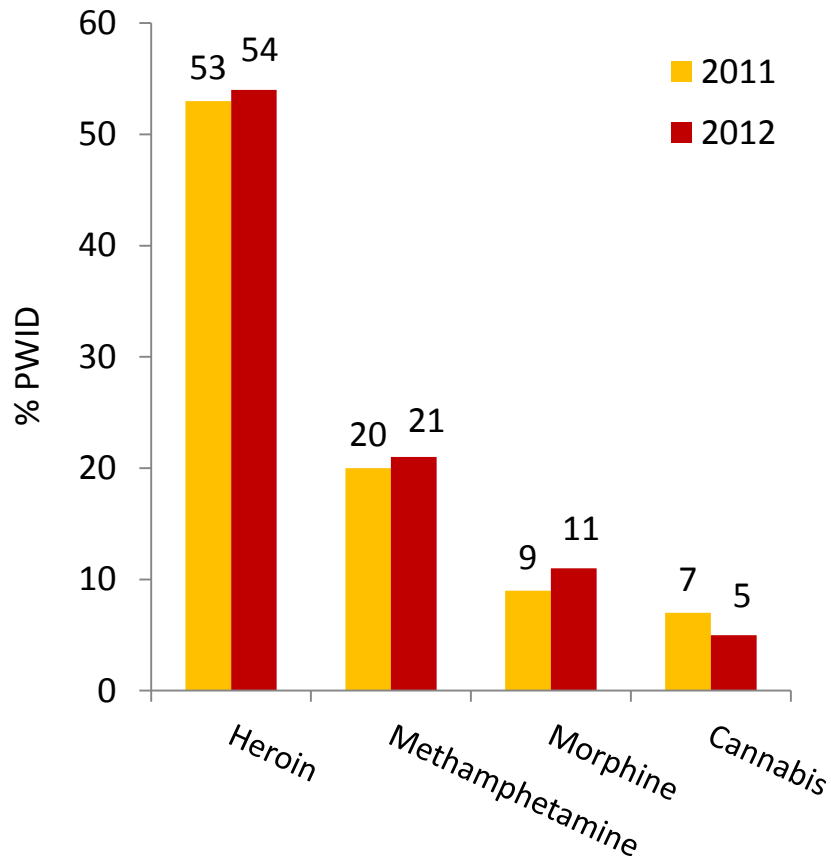
Demographics

	IDRS	
	2011 N=868	2012 N=924
Gender (% male)	66	66
Mean age (years)	38	39 (17-71)
Unemployed (%)	79	84 ↑
Currently in treatment (%)	49	44
Prison history (%)	55	54
Mean age first injected (years)	18	20

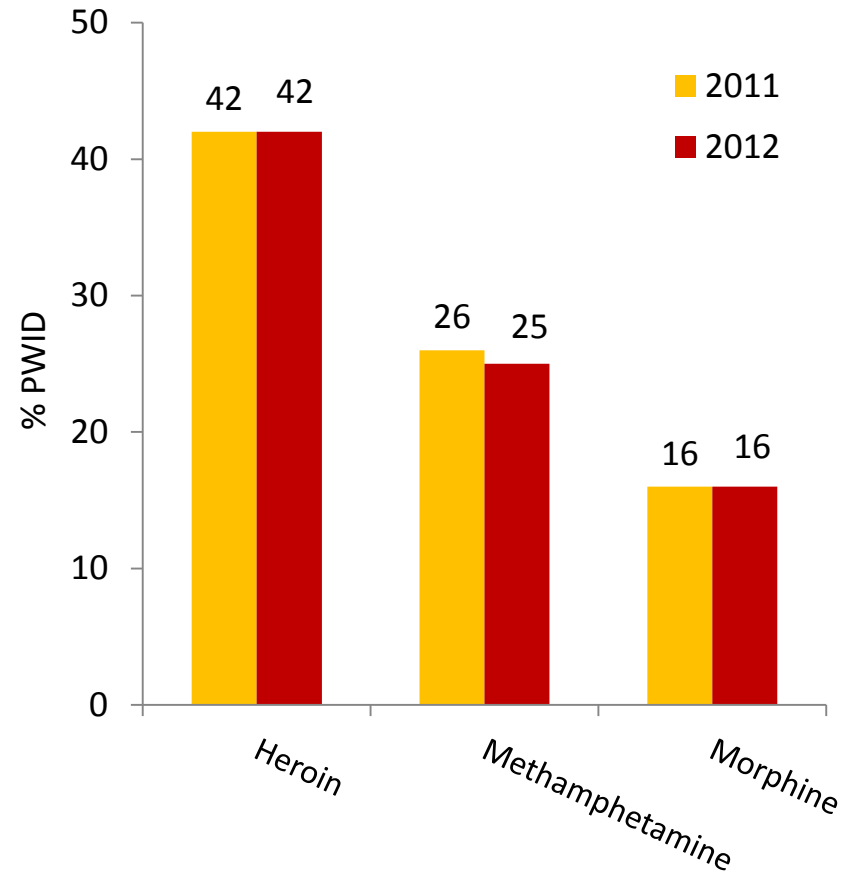
↑ Significant increase between 2011 and 2012 ($p < 0.05$)

IDRS:

Drug of choice (%)



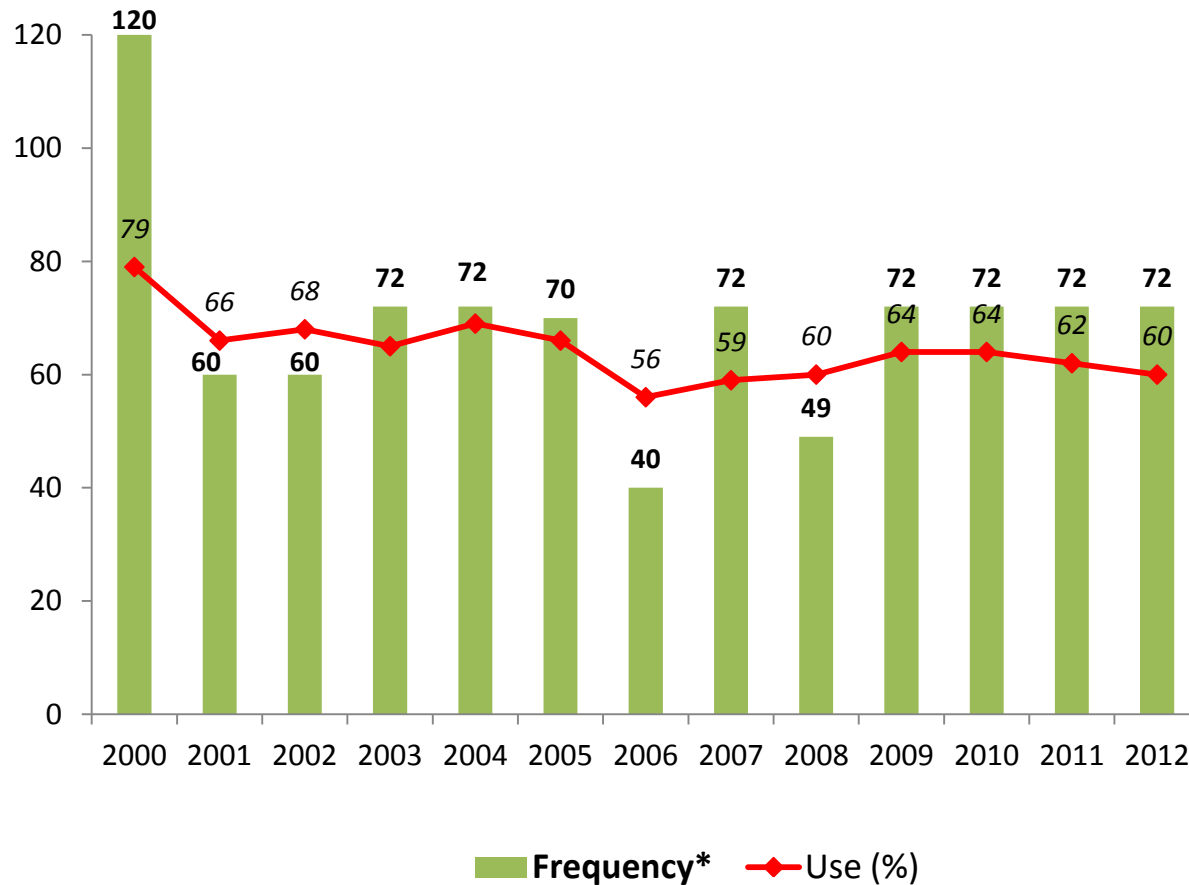
Drug injected most last month (%)



Heroin



Recent heroin use and frequency, nationally, 2000-2012



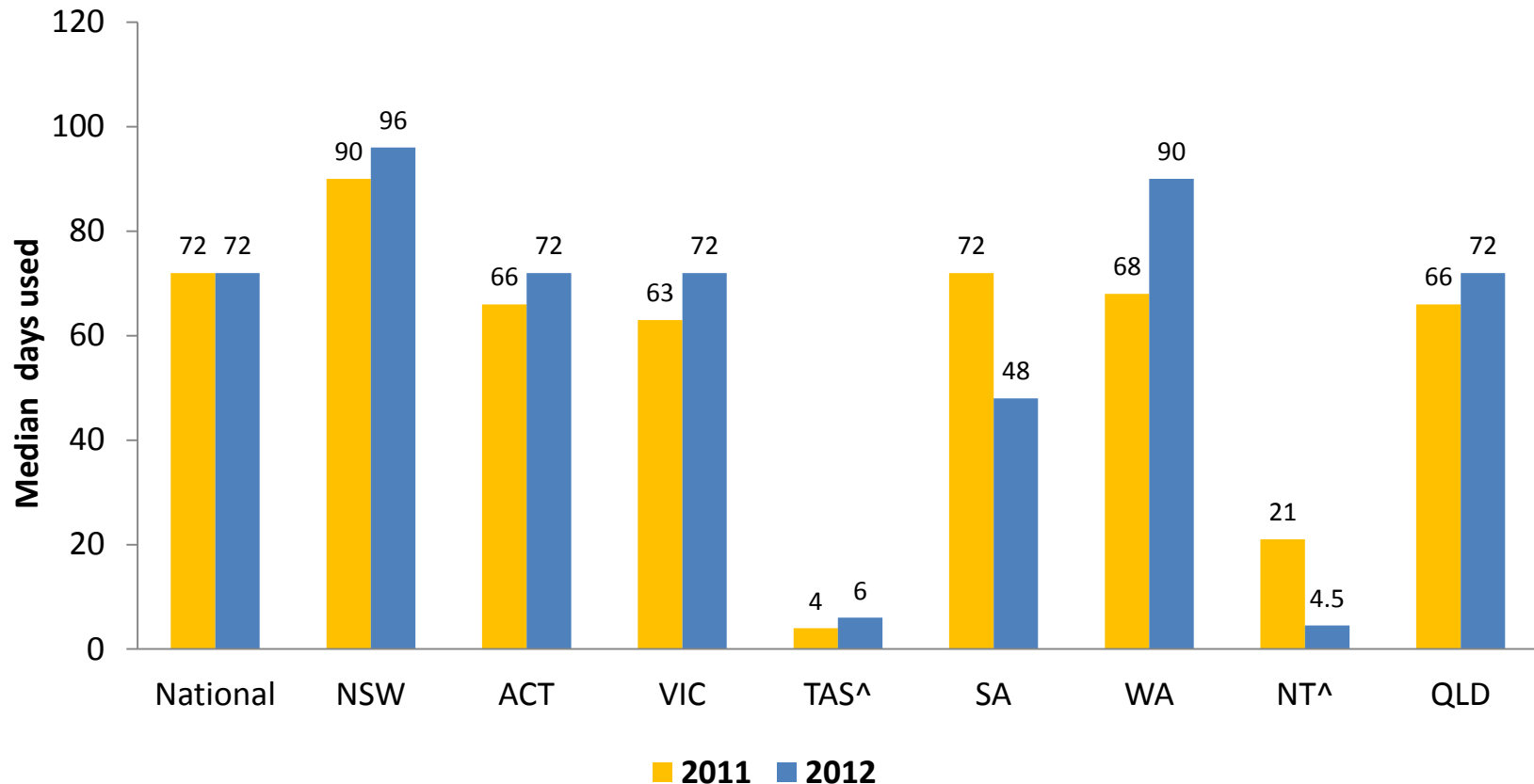
National Drug Strategy Household Survey

Heroin	2007	2010
Recent use (%)	0.2	0.2
Lifetime use (%)	1.6	1.4

No change between years

* among those who reported recent heroin use. Maximum no. of days = 180.

Days of heroin use in past six months, 2011-2012



Note: Maximum days = 180

[^] small numbers commenting (n<10); interpret with caution

Price, purity and availability of heroin*, 2012

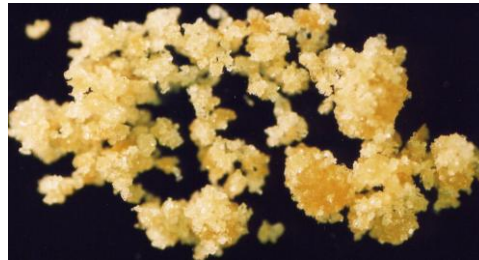
Price	<p>Cap of heroin around \$50 in each jurisdiction (\$50 in NSW)</p> <p>Gram of heroin ranged from \$125 in the NT^ to \$600 in WA^ (\$350 in NSW)</p>
Purity	<p>Majority reported heroin purity as 'low' (42%)</p> <p>40% reported purity levels as 'stable'</p>
Availability	<p>Majority reported heroin as 'very easy' to obtain (51%)</p> <p>77 % report availability as 'stable'</p>

* in the last 6 months

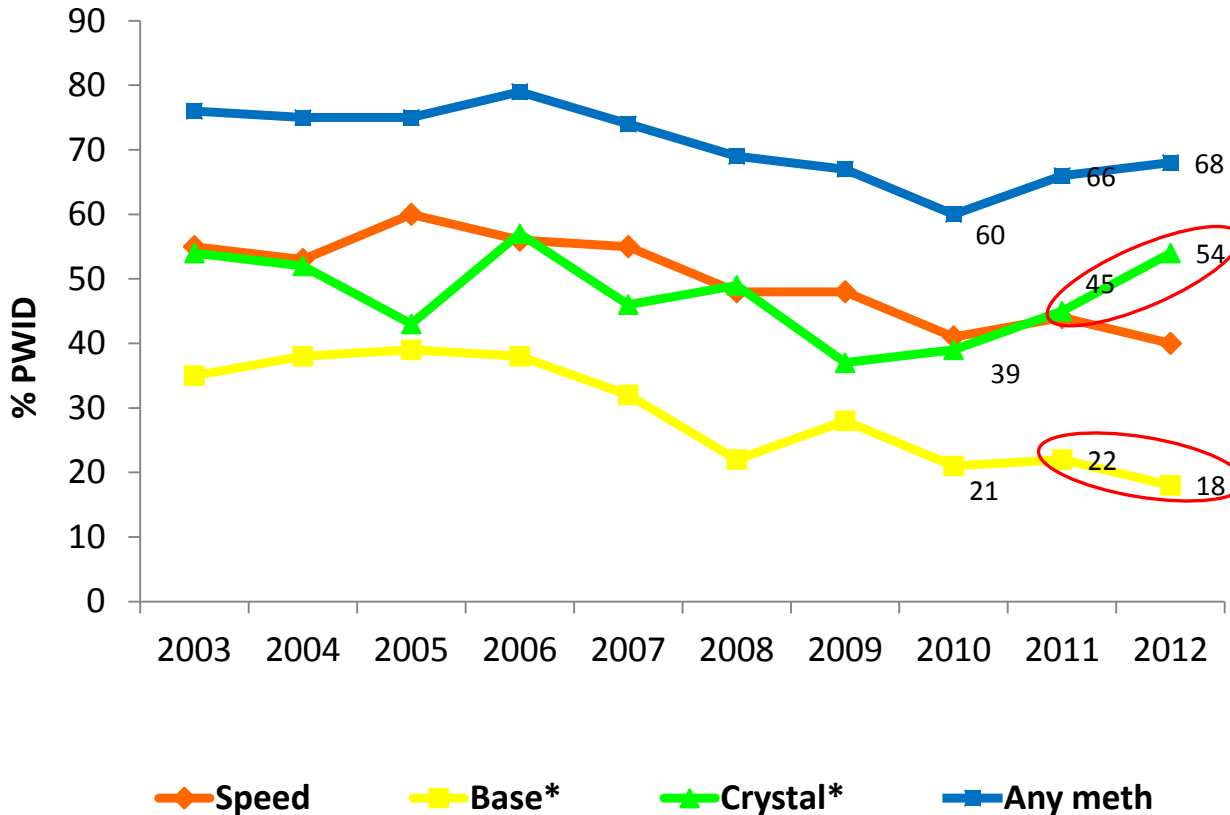
^ small numbers commenting (n<10); interpret with caution

Methamphetamine

Speed powder, base and ice/crystal



Recent methamphetamine use, nationally 2003-2012



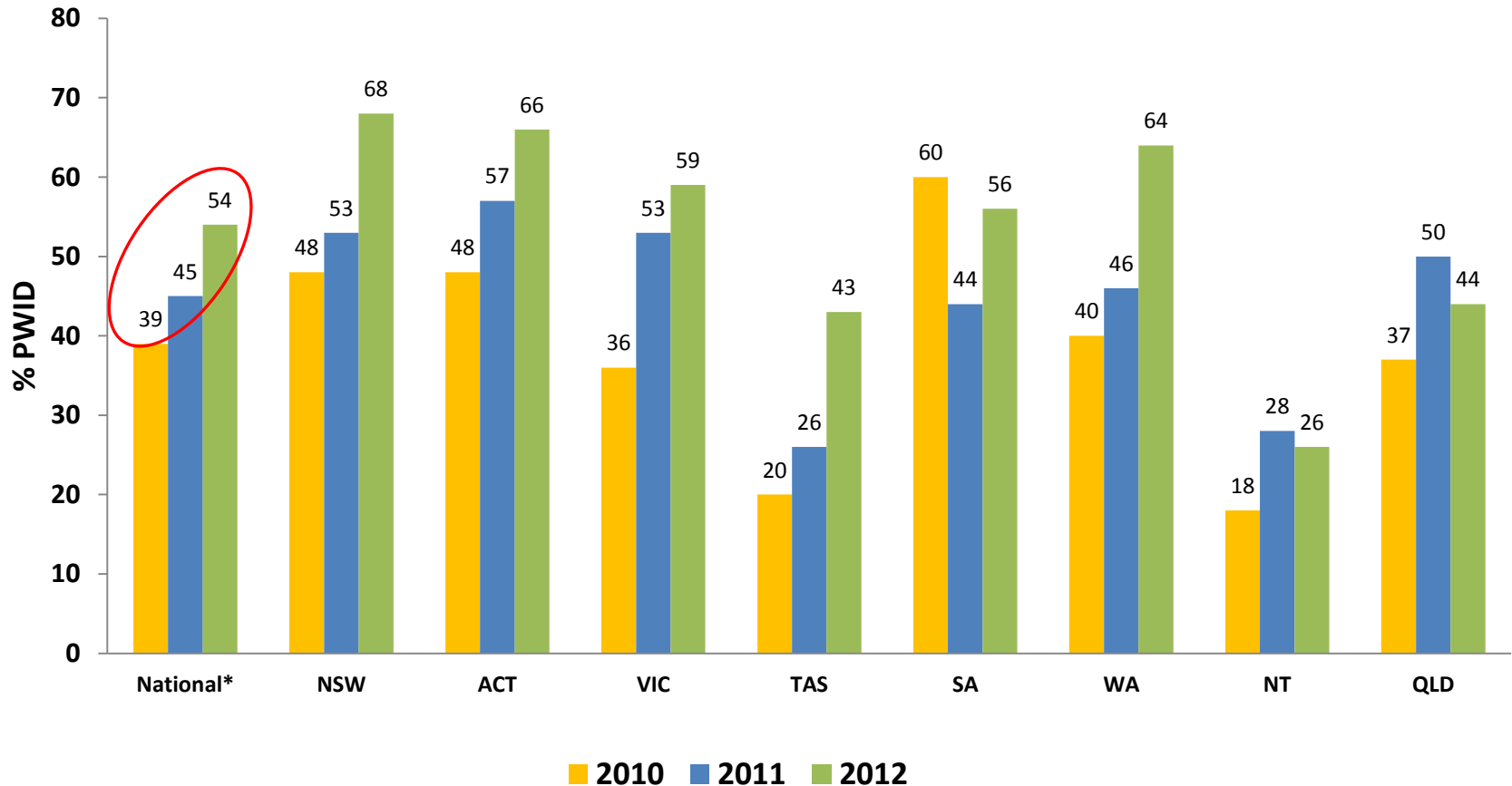
National Drug Strategy Household Survey

Any meth	2007	2010
Recent use (%)	2.3	2.1
Lifetime use (%)	6.3	7*

*significant ↑ from 2007

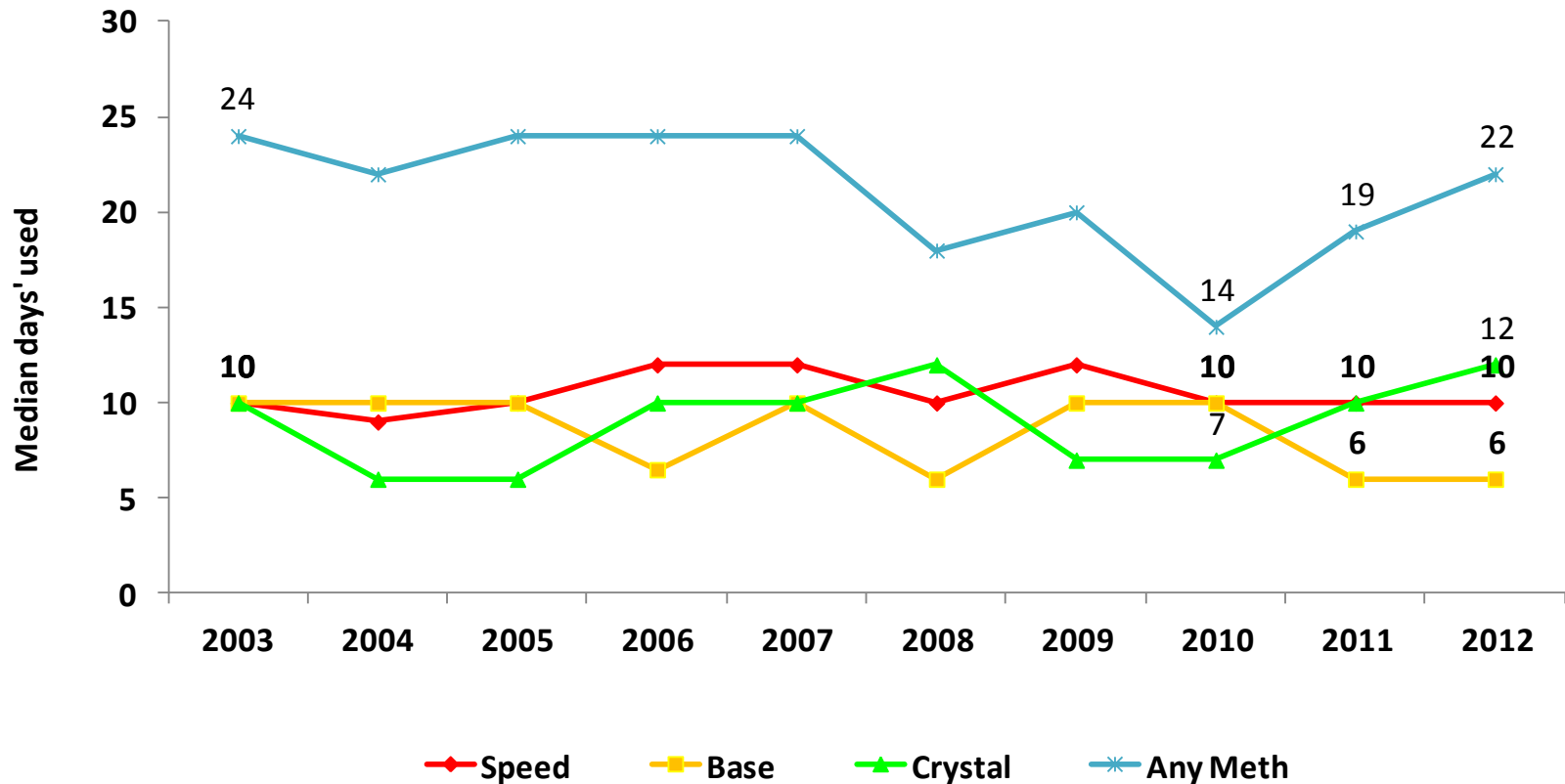
* Significant difference between 2011 and 2012 ($p < 0.05$)

Recent use of crystal methamphetamine 'ice', 2010-2012



* Significant difference between 2011 and 2012 ($p < 0.05$)

Methamphetamine days of use in past six months, 2003-2012

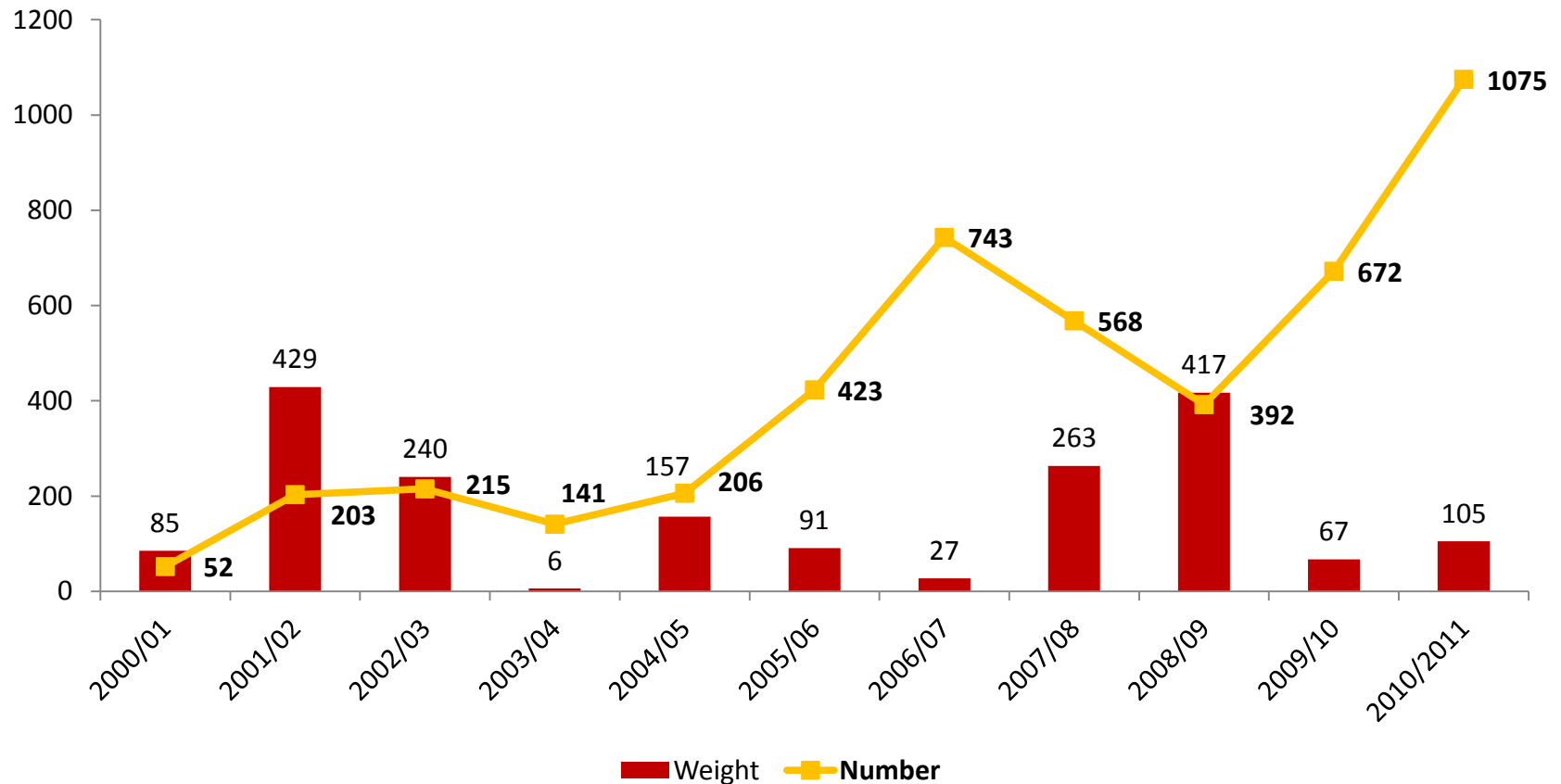


Note: Maximum days = 180

Price, purity and availability of methamphetamine, 2012

Speed:	Gram \$150 [^] - \$775 [^] Point: \$50 - \$100
Base:	Gram: \$250 [^] - \$700 [^] Point: \$20 [^] - \$100 [^]
Crystal:	Gram: \$350 - \$725 [^] Point: \$50-\$150
Availability:	All forms considered 'very easy' or 'easy' to obtain
Purity:	Speed – low/medium Base – medium/high Crystal - high

Indicator data – weight and number of detections of Amphetamine Type Substances at the Australian border



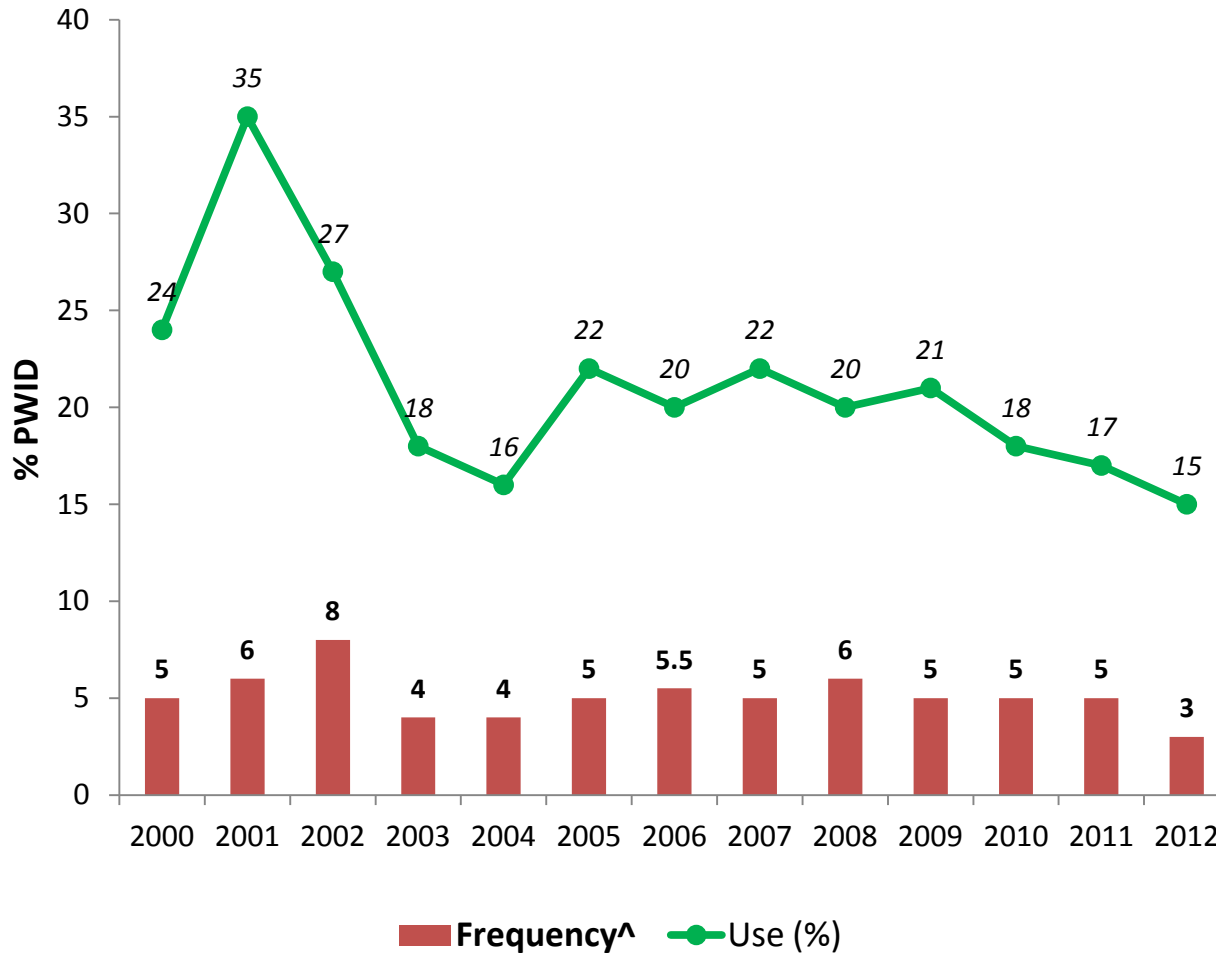
- Highest number of detections in the last decade

Cocaine



Because of its high population and how far cocaine has to travel to get here, the majority of cocaine use occurs in NSW and the east coast.

Recent cocaine use and days of use past six months, nationally, 2000-2012



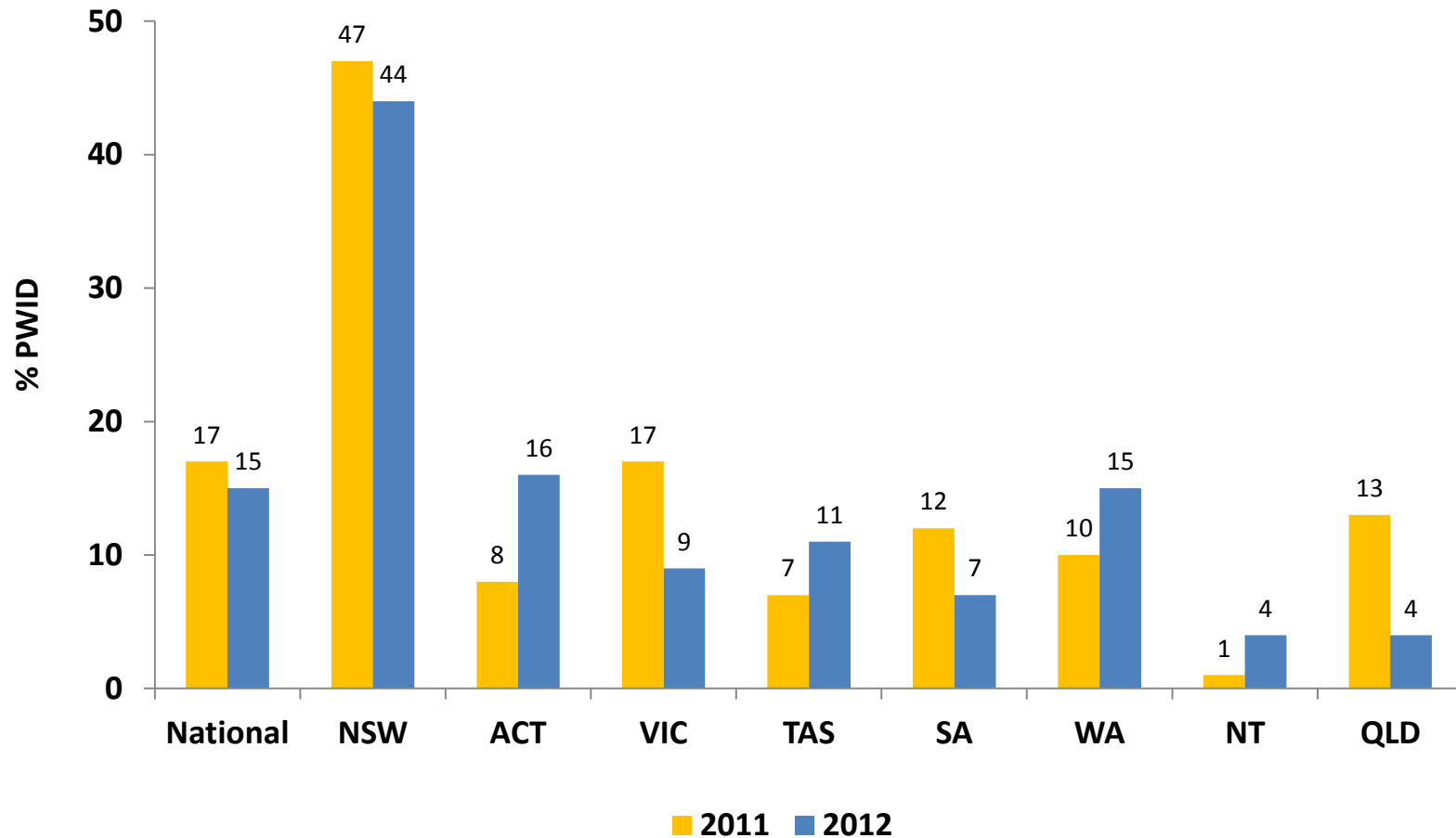
National Drug Strategy Household Survey

Cocaine	2007	2010
Recent use (%)	1.6	2.1*
Lifetime use (%)	5.9	7.3*

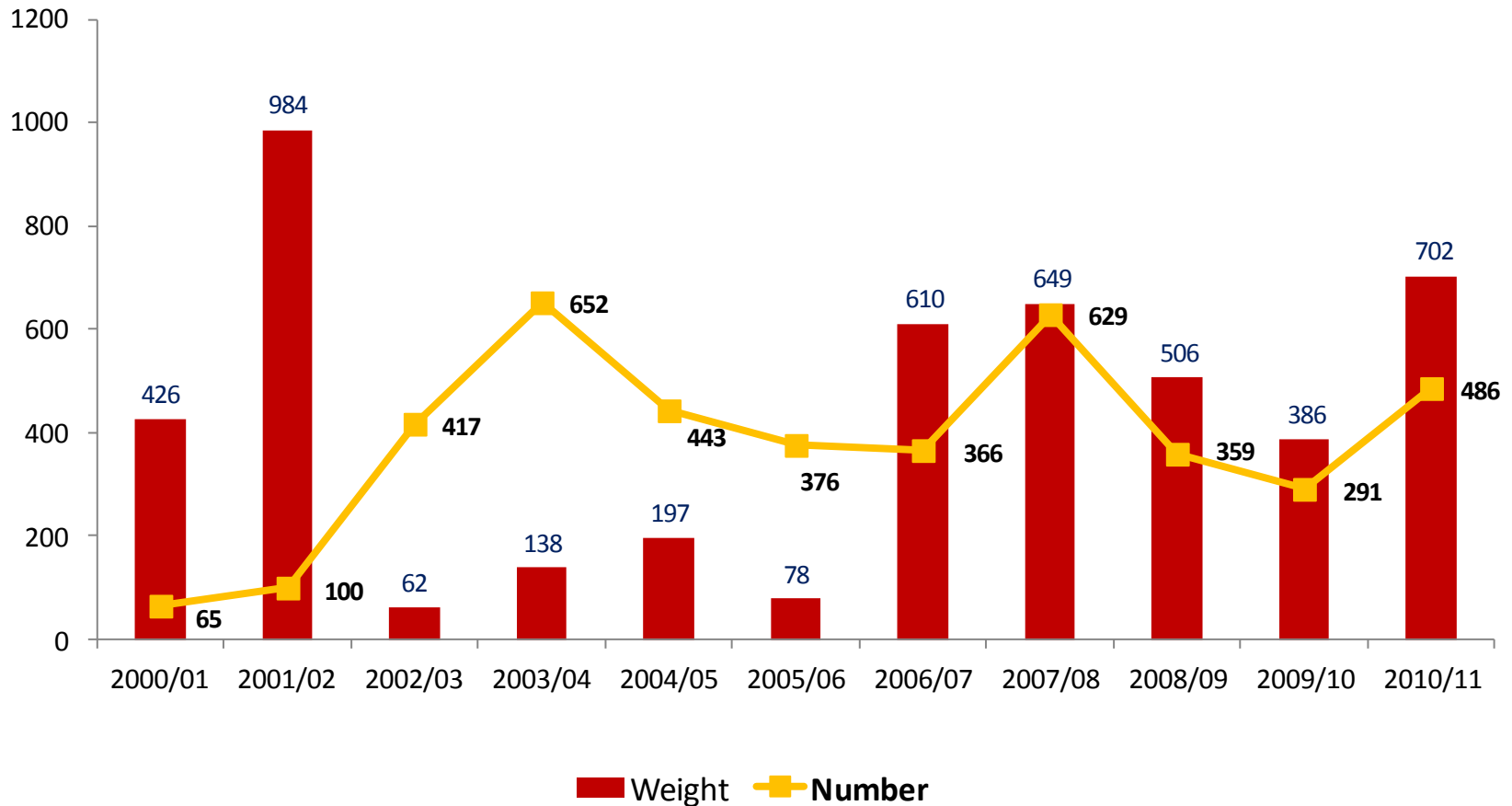
***significant ↑ from 2007**

^ among those who reported recent cocaine use. Maximum no. of days = 180.

Recent cocaine use by jurisdiction, 2011-2012



Indicator data – weight and number of detections of cocaine made at the Australian border

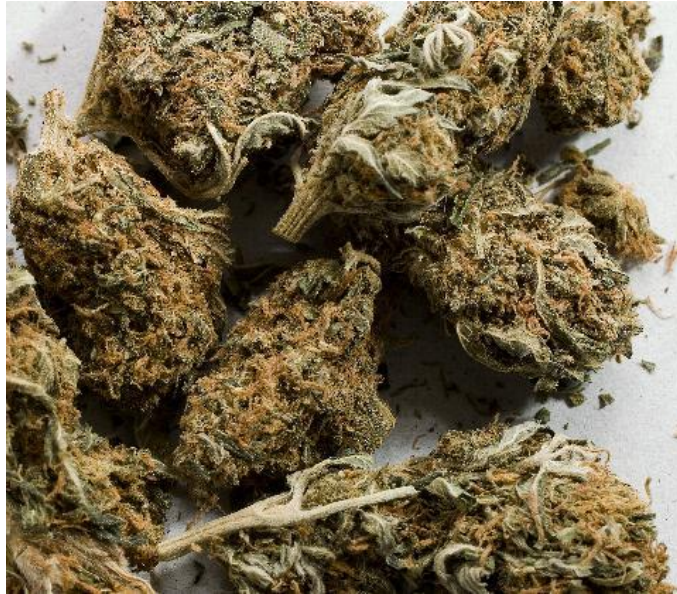


Source: Australian Customs and Border Service

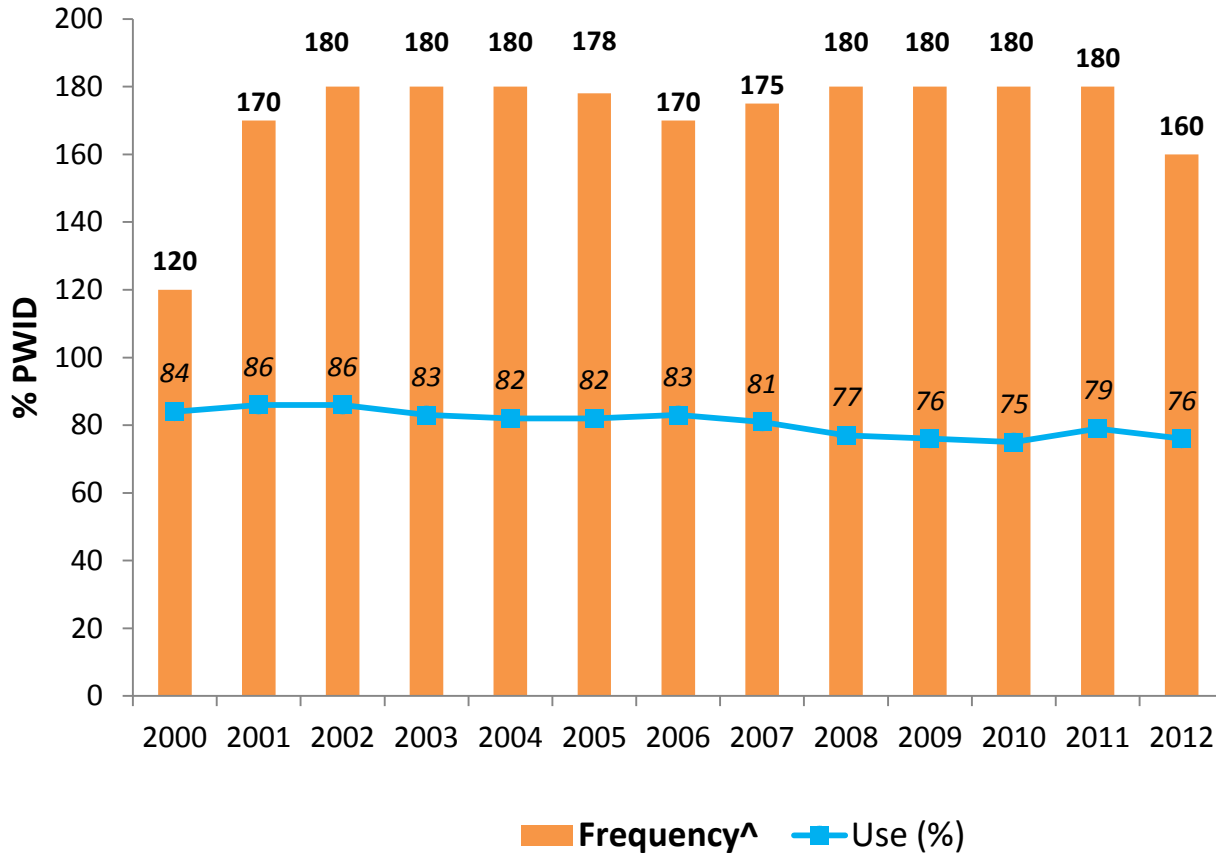
Overall cocaine trends

- 15% of national sample recently used cocaine
- Use most common & more frequent in NSW
- Frequency continues to be low (except in NSW which was seven days)
- NSW – median \$50 cap and \$375[^] gram
- Nationally availability – ‘easy’
- Nationally purity – ‘medium’ (increase from 2011)

Cannabis



Recent cannabis use and days of use past six months nationally, 2000-2012



National Drug Strategy Household Survey

Cannabis	2007	2010
Recent use (%)	9.1	10.3*
Lifetime use (%)	33.5	35.4*

***significant ↑ from 2007**

^ among those who reported recent cannabis use. Maximum no. of days = 180.

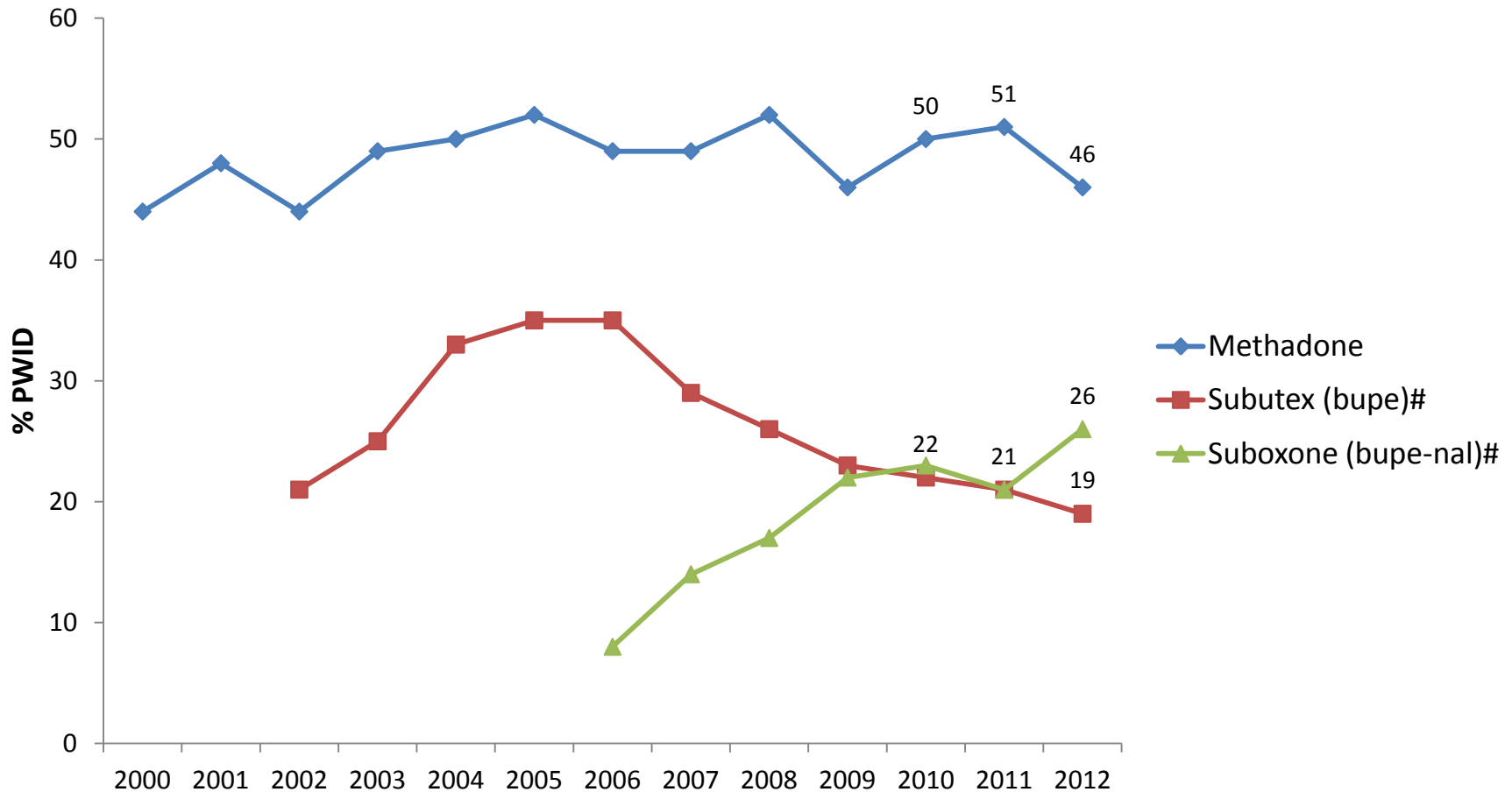
Overall cannabis trends

- Majority used cannabis – 61% in SA to 85% in VIC
- Nationally near daily use
- Hydroponic dominates market
- Bush ‘easy’ to obtain. Hydro ‘very easy’
- Potency/strength of hydro rated as ‘high’ and bush ‘medium’
- Price hydro fairly stable – gram \$20-\$30, ounce \$220-\$420

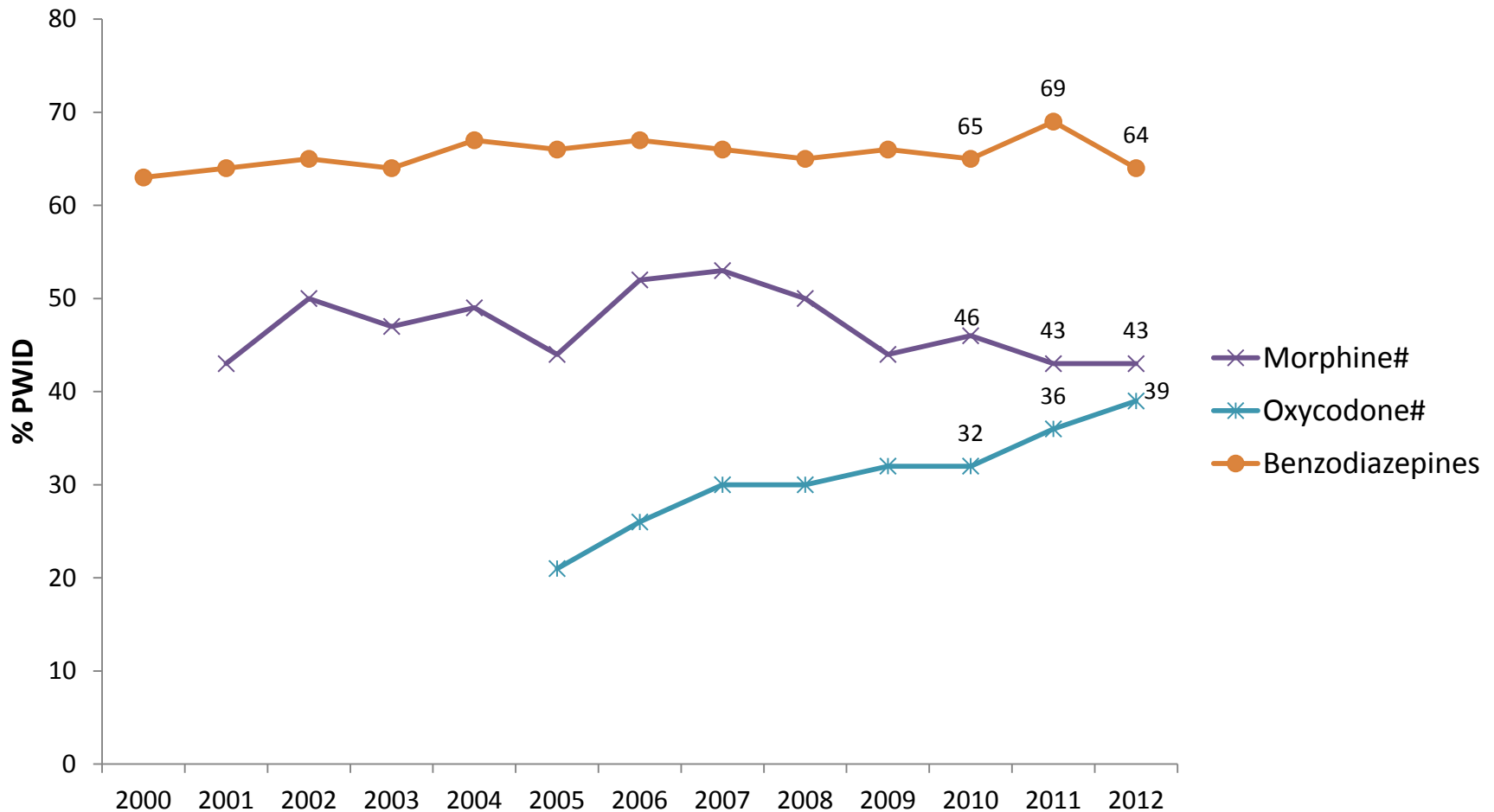
Other drugs



Recent use of other opioids (includes licit Opioid Substitution Therapy), 2000-2012

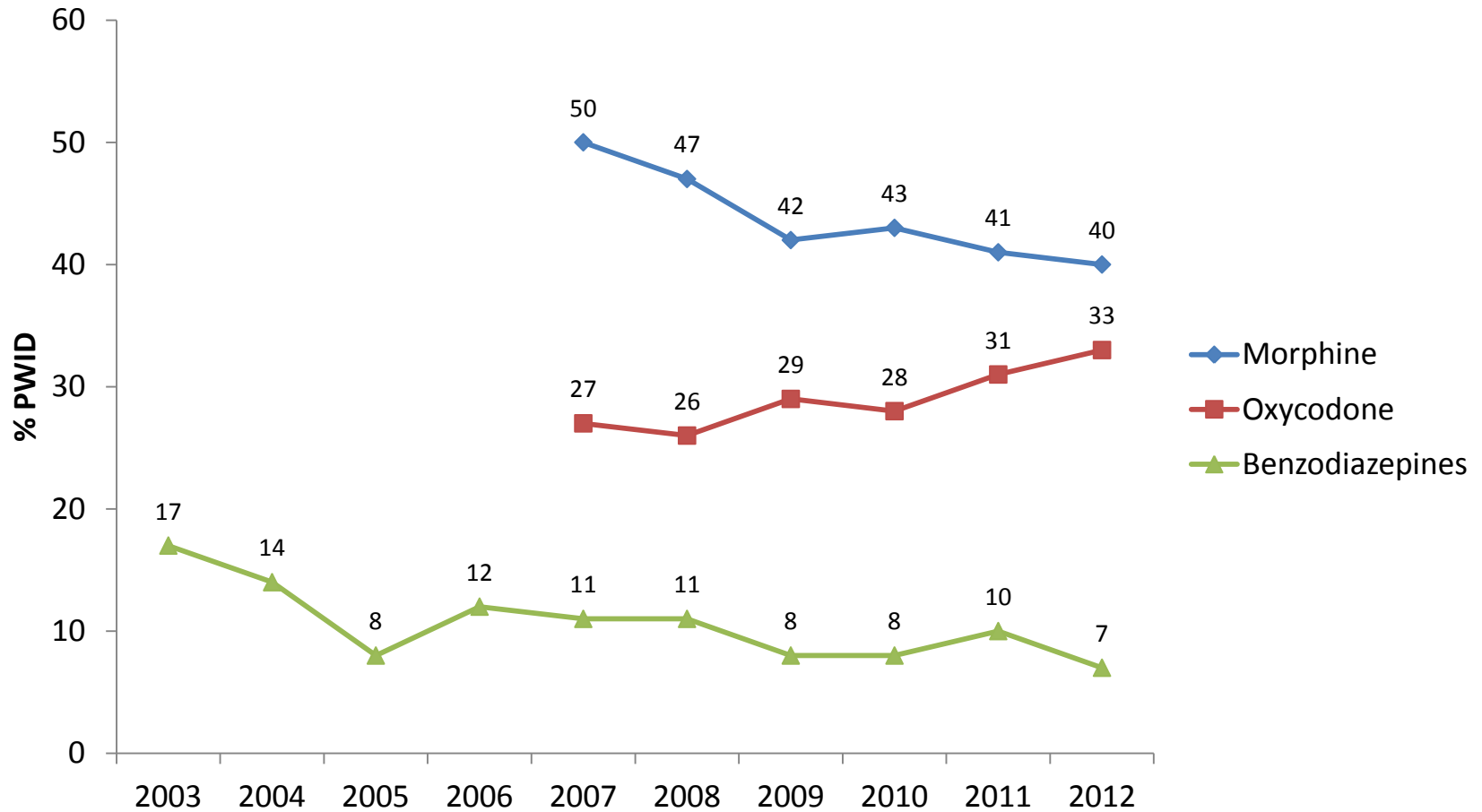


Recent use of morphine, oxycodone and benzodiazepines, 2000-2012



Data collection started in 2001 for morphine and 2005 for oxycodone

Recent injection of other drugs, 2003-2012



Recent injection of other opiates, 2012

Recent injection	National sample (%) (N=924)
Morphine – any form*	40
<i>Licit</i>	7
<i>Illicit</i>	37
Oxycodone – any form*	33
<i>Licit</i>	4
<i>Illicit</i>	32
Bup-Naloxone FILM– any form*	5
<i>Licit</i>	1
<i>Illicit</i>	4
Bup-Naloxone TABLET– any form*	9
<i>Licit</i>	3
<i>Illicit</i>	7

* Any form includes licit or illicit use

Alcohol and Tobacco use and frequency, 2012

National	Alcohol and Tobacco use and frequency, 2012									
	(%)	National	NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	QLD
	2011	2012								
Recent use										
Alcohol	65	64	61	65	69	74	66	67	54	60
Tobacco	94	93	95	94	95	88	96	91	93	936
Median days used by those who recently used										
Alcohol	24	24	12	54	24	27	12	12	24	12
Tobacco	180	180	180	180	180	180	180	180	180	180

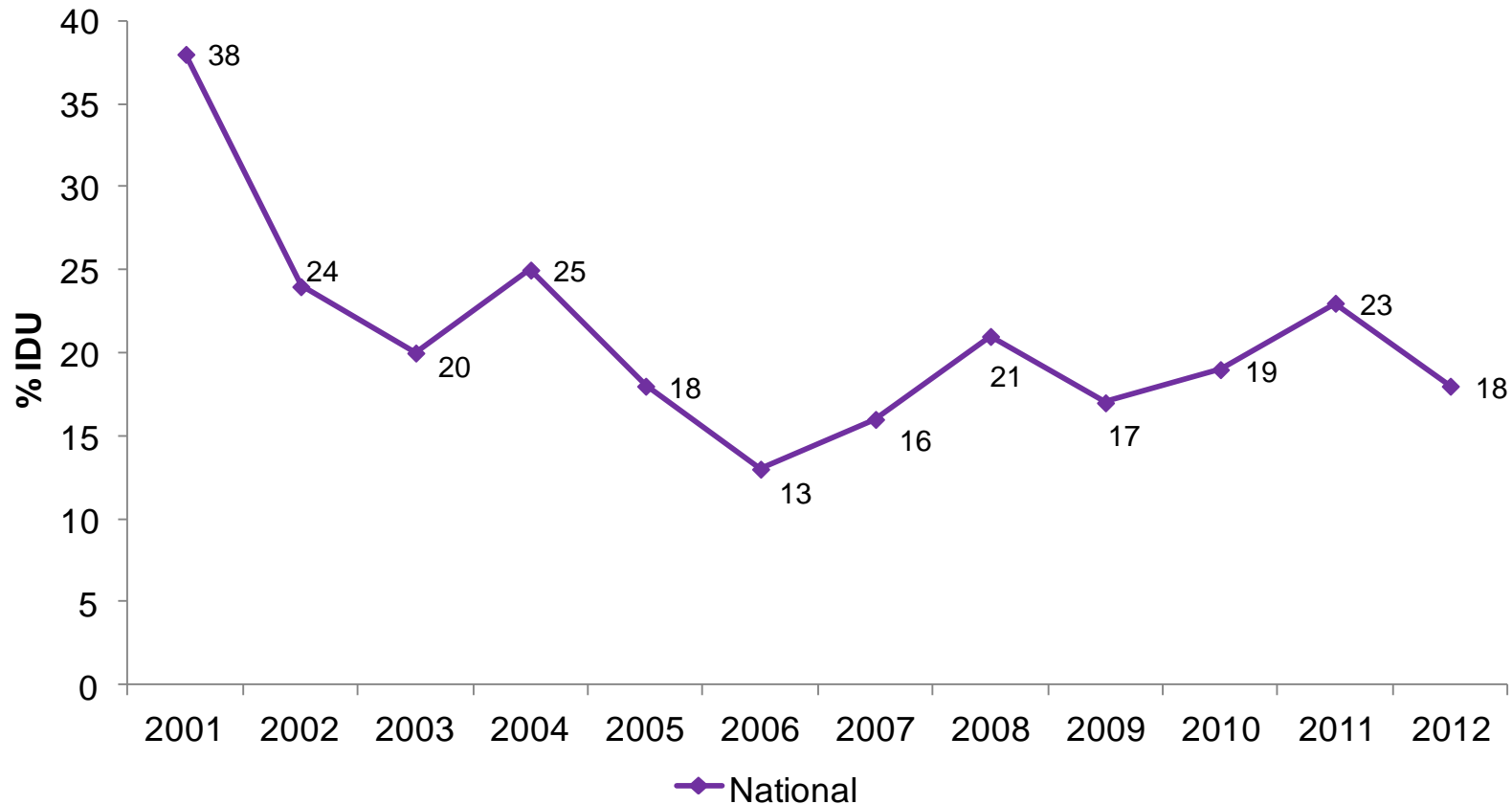
IDRS: Summary

- Heroin continues to be the drug of choice and has remained stable
- Crystal/Ice use increased while base use decreased and speed remained stable. Jurisdictional differences were noted
- Cocaine use was greatest in NSW, although frequency of use continued to be low
- Cannabis use remained stable
- Other pharmaceuticals continued to be diverted and injected

Risk behaviours and criminal activity



Heroin overdose in the last 12mths[^]



[^] among those who had ever overdosed on heroin

Injection-related problems (in the last month), 2011-2012

	2011	2012
Infection/abscess (%)	10	8
Dirty hit (%)	17	20
Scarring/bruising (%)	45	39
Difficulty injecting(%)	37	34
Thrombosis (%)	6	5
Overdose (%)	3	5

Injecting risk behaviour (in the last month), 2011-2012

	2011	2012
Borrowed a needle (%)	11	7↓
Lent a needle (%)	16	14
Shared equipment (excludes needles) (%)	25	25
Re-used own needle(%)	49	47
Re-used injecting equipment (excludes needles) (%)	58	62

↓ Significant decrease between 2011 and 2012 (p<0.05)

Self-reported mental health problems (last 6mths), 2011-2012

	2011	2012
Self-reported mental health problem (%)	48	43
Problem reported:	N=411	N=393
Depression (%)	66	70
Anxiety (%)	45	52
Manic-depression (%)	16	12
Schizophrenia (%)	16	11
Drug Induced Psychosis (%)	7	7
Attended a health professional for self-reported mental health problem (%)	71	58↓

↓ Significant decrease between 2011 and 2012 ($p < 0.05$)

Self-reported mental health problems (last 6mths), 2011-2012 (cont)

	2011	2012
Attended health professional for mental health problem (%)	n.a.	N=229
GP (%)	n.a.	58
Psychiatrist (%)	n.a.	35
Psychologist (%)	n.a.	29
Counselor (%)	n.a.	10
Prescribed medication for mental health problem (%)	N=204	N=183
Antidepressant (%)	67	50↓
Antipsychotic (%)	54	36↓
Benzodiazepines (%)	52	50
Mood stabilizer (%)	n.a.	6

↓ Significant decrease between 2011 and 2012 ($p < 0.05$)

Driving risk behaviours, 2011-2012

	2011	2012
Driven in the last six months (%)	46 (N=395)	46 (N=409)
Driven under the influence of alcohol last six months (%)	18	20
Driven while taking an illicit drug (%)	79	77
Drugs used last month (%)	N=312	N=313
Heroin	39	39
Cannabis	30	28
Speed	10	10
Base	3	3
Crystal/Ice	12	10
Methadone	8	11
Morphine	16	17
Benzodiazepines	10	10

Criminal activity, 2011-2012

Crime in the last month:	2011	2012
Drug dealing (%)	25	24
Property (%)	22	18↓
Fraud (%)	3	3
Violence (%)	6	3↓
Any Crime (%)	39	37
Arrested last 12 months (%)	36	33

↓ Significant decrease between 2011 and 2012 ($p < 0.05$)

What to watch!

Ice/Crystal and Oxycodone use: on the increase
Will use increase further in this population?

Fentanyl patches (pain medication):

Thirteen participants reported ever using Fentanyl in 2012
Will be asking about Fentanyl more closely in 2013

Health:

Sharing and re-using of equipment - concern

Self-reported mental health problems -half of the IDRS population

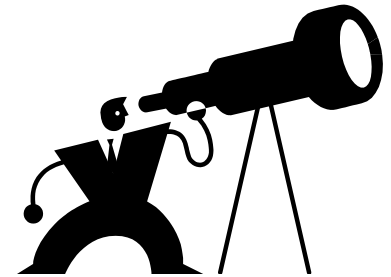
Decrease in accessing health professionals for mental health problem

2013 survey modules:

Pain and prescription opioids

Hepatitis C

Ageing



Thank you

For more information please visit the NDARC website and click on 'drug trends'

<http://ndarc.med.unsw.edu.au/>