

# Injecting-related injuries and diseases among a sample of people who inject drugs in Australia

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The Difference is Research

## Background

IRID<sup>a</sup> are both common among PWID<sup>b</sup> and neglected in the literature.

Systemic bacterial infections are particularly fatal; however, all IRID types contribute to morbidity and a decreased quality of life.

Certain risk factors have been found to be associated with various types of IRID, yet it is not understood how these harms cluster together.

<sup>a</sup> IRID: Injecting-related injuries and diseases

<sup>b</sup> PWID: People who inject drugs

## Aims

1. Using data from the 2019 Illicit Drug Reporting Survey, examine the proportion of PWID reporting IRID.
2. Determine clusters of PWID based on IRID presentation.
3. Determine characteristics associated with clusters.

## Methods

**Aim 1:** Past month...

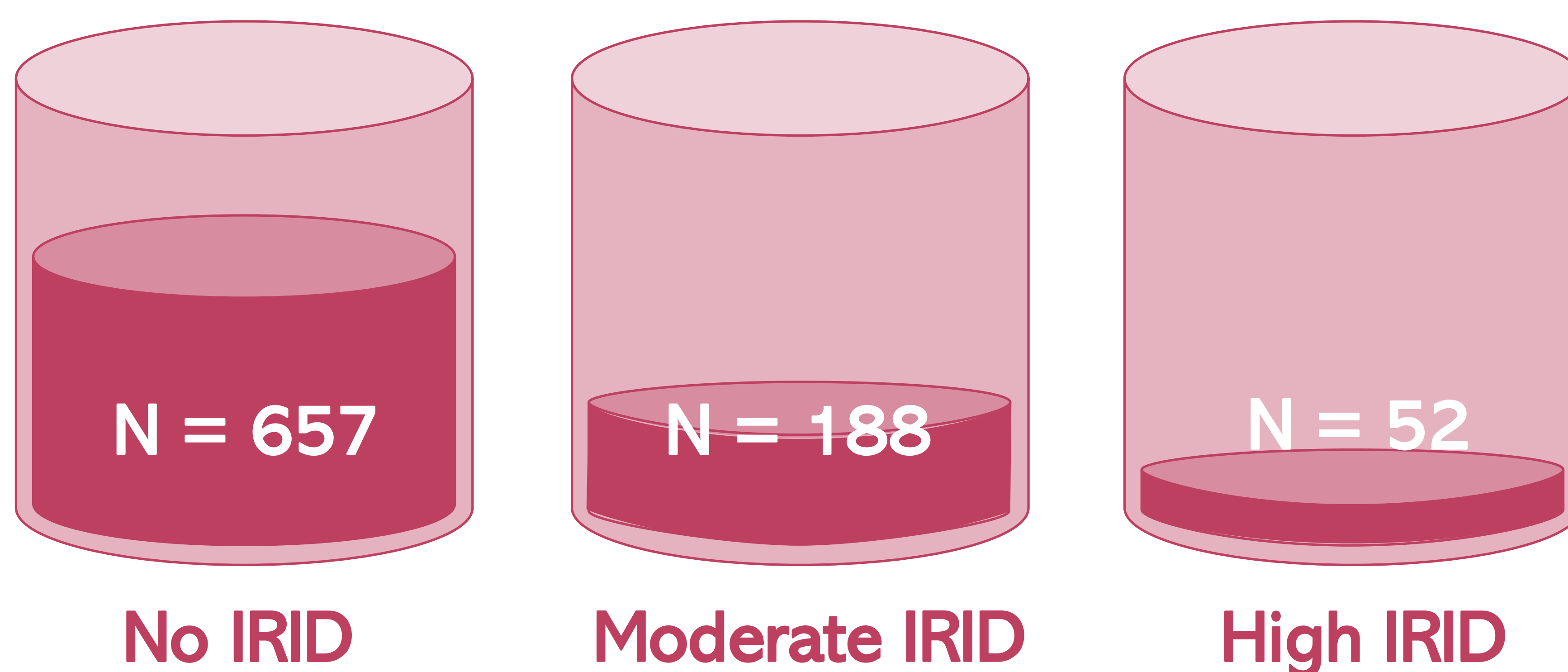
- Skin and soft tissue infections
- Thrombophlebitis
- Deep vein thrombosis
- Endocarditis
- Artery injection

- Nerve damage
- Osteomyelitis
- Septic arthritis
- Sepsis

**Aim 2:** Latent class analysis

**Aim 3:** Class-weighted multinomial logistic regression analysis

There were **three** conceptually distinct classes, pointing to a **spectrum of IRID severity**



## Results



1. **34%** reported at least one IRID in the previous month.
2. Reporting recent **thrombophlebitis** distinguished the PWID in the moderate IRID group from those in the high IRID group.
3. **Re-using one's own needle** in the past month was associated with an increased risk of being in the moderate (vs. no) and high (vs. moderate) IRID groups.

## Implications

Covering every injection with a new needle is vital to reduce harms among PWID.

There is a need to improve public health messaging about prevention and management of clotting disorders in this population.

Expanding clinical capabilities of low-threshold services to detect and treat IRID might be an important response strategy to reduce cost, morbidity and mortality associated with these harms. **Full text article published in Drug and Alcohol Dependence** [here](#)

The Illicit Drug Reporting System (IDRS), falling within the Drug Trends program of work, was supported by funding from the Australian Government under the Drug and Alcohol Program.

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