People who inject drugs (PWID)

**Unsafe injecting practices** were responsible for **0.5%** of the total burden of disease and injuries in 2015.\(^1\)

People who inject drugs experience considerably poorer health outcomes than others who use drugs.\(^2\)

In 2018, the most commonly reported injected drugs were:
- methamphetamine (48%), up from 33% in 2014
- heroin (26%), decreasing since 2014 (31%).\(^3\)

The proportion of respondents reporting **reuse of needles and syringes** (including the reuse of one’s own syringes) increased from 21% in 2014 to 26% in 2018.\(^3\)

Unsafe injecting practices were responsible for 0.5% of the total burden of disease and injuries in 2015.\(^1\)

Proportion of needle and syringe program survey respondents reporting receptive sharing of needles and syringes increased, from 16% in 2014 to 18% in 2018.\(^3\)

Between 2014 and 2018, the prevalence of HIV among people who inject drugs remained low and stable (1.4% to 2.1%).\(^3\)

In 2019, 45% of respondents to the IDRS had experienced an injection-related health problem in the last month.\(^3\)

The proportion of respondents reporting reuse of needles and syringes (including the reuse of one’s own syringes) increased from 21% in 2014 to 26% in 2018.\(^3\)

Of the population aged 14+ 1.6% reported injecting a drug in their lifetime. 0.3% reported injecting a drug in the past year in 2016.\(^4\)

In 2018, 45% of people who inject drugs had been exposed to Hepatitis C, a significant decline since 2014 when it was 54%, and the lowest level since data were collected in 1995.\(^3\)


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For more detail, see the full report, *Alcohol, tobacco and other drugs in Australia*, which can be downloaded for free from the AIHW website.