



## People who inject drugs (PWID)

Alcohol, tobacco and other drugs in Australia

People who inject drugs experience **considerably poorer health outcomes** than others who use drugs.<sup>[2]</sup>



**Unsafe injecting practices** were responsible for **0.9% of the total burden of disease and injuries** in 2018.<sup>[1]</sup>

In 2021, **methamphetamine** (51%) and **heroin** (20%) were the **most common** 'last drug injected' among NSP survey respondents.<sup>[3]</sup>

In 2021, **1 in 4 (26%)** NSP survey respondents reported **reusing their own needles and syringes**.<sup>[3]</sup>



In 2021, almost **1 in 6 (18%)** needle and syringe program (NSP) survey respondents **reported sharing someone else's needles and syringes** in the last month.<sup>[3]</sup>



The **prevalence of HIV** among people who inject drugs **decreased** between 2017 (2.1%) and 2021 (1.5%).<sup>[3]</sup>

In 2021, **36%** of people who inject drugs were **HCV antibody positive** (indicating exposure to hepatitis C). This represents a **decline from 49%** in 2017.<sup>[3]</sup>

In 2022, **26%** of PWID surveyed in the Illicit Drug Reporting System experienced an **injection-related health problem** in the last month.<sup>[5]</sup>

Of the population aged 14+ **1.5%** reported **injecting a drug in their lifetime** and **0.3%** reported **injecting a drug in the past year** in 2019.<sup>[4]</sup>



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## References

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Source: Alcohol, tobacco and other drugs in Australia  
(<https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/alcohol/alcohol-tobacco-other-drugs-australia>).

