



Unsafe injecting practices were responsible for **0.5% of the total burden of disease and injuries** in 2015.<sup>[1]</sup>



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



In 2019, methamphetamine (49%) and heroin (27%) were the most common 'last drug injected' among NSP survey respondents.<sup>[3]</sup>

The **prevalence of HIV** among people who inject drugs **remained low and stable** from 2015 (1.7%) to 2019 (2.3%).<sup>[3]</sup>

In 2019, 1 in 6 (16%) needle and syringe program (NSP) survey respondents reported **sharing someone else's needles and syringes in the last month**.<sup>[3]</sup>



In 2019, 1 in 4 (24%) NSP survey respondents reporting **reusing their own needles and syringes** (25%).<sup>[3]</sup>

In 2019, **45% of people who inject drugs were HCV antibody positive** (indicating exposure to hepatitis C). This represents a decline from 57% in 2015.<sup>[3]</sup>



In 2020<sup>a</sup>, **29%** 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>



1. AIHW (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare) 2019. *Australian Burden of Disease Study: impact and causes of illness and death in Australia 2015*. Australian Burden of Disease Study series no.19. Cat. no. BOD 22. Canberra: AIHW. Viewed 13 June 2019.
2. United Nations Office on Drug and Crime (UNODC) 2020. *World Drug Report 2020*. Vienna: UNODC. Viewed 28 July 2020.
3. Heard S, Iversen J, Geddes L & Maher L 2020. *Australian NSP Survey 25 Year National Data Report 1995–2019: Prevalence of HIV, HCV and injecting and sexual behaviour among NSP attendees*. Sydney: Kirby Institute, UNSW.

4. AIHW 2020. *National Drug Strategy Household Survey 2019*. Drug Statistics series no. 32. Cat. no. PHE 270. Canberra: AIHW. Viewed 21 July 2020.
5. Peacock A, Uporova J, Karlsson A, Gibbs D, Swanton R, Kelly G, Price O, Bruno R, Dietze P, Lenton S, Degenhardt L & Farrell M 2019. *Australian Drug Trends 2019: Key findings from the National Illicit Drug Reporting System Interviews*. Sydney, National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, UNSW Australia.