



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

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

The proportion of needle and syringe program (NSP) survey respondents who reported **receptive sharing of needles and syringes in the last month remained stable** at 16% in both 2015 and 2019.^[3]



The proportion of respondents reporting **reuse of needles and syringes** (including the reuse of one's own syringes) **remained relatively stable** from 2015 (25%) to 2019 (24%).^[3]

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.^[3]



In 2019, **45% of respondents to the IDRS had experienced an injection-related health problem** in the last month.^[5]

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.^[4]

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.