



St. Vincent's Hospital, Melbourne
Australia



ST VINCENT'S
HEALTH AUSTRALIA

Data, data, data 2023

(National Opioid Pharmacotherapy Statistics Annual Data Collection and others)

Victorian Opioid Management ECHO
Department of Addiction Medicine
St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne November 2024

Enter NOPSAD



- National Opioid Pharmacotherapy Statistics Annual Data
- Data collected by individual states and territories
- Submitted to AIHW for aggregation and comparison
- Data covers a “snapshot day” every year
- Data available from June 1998 through June 2023
 - current data excludes WA

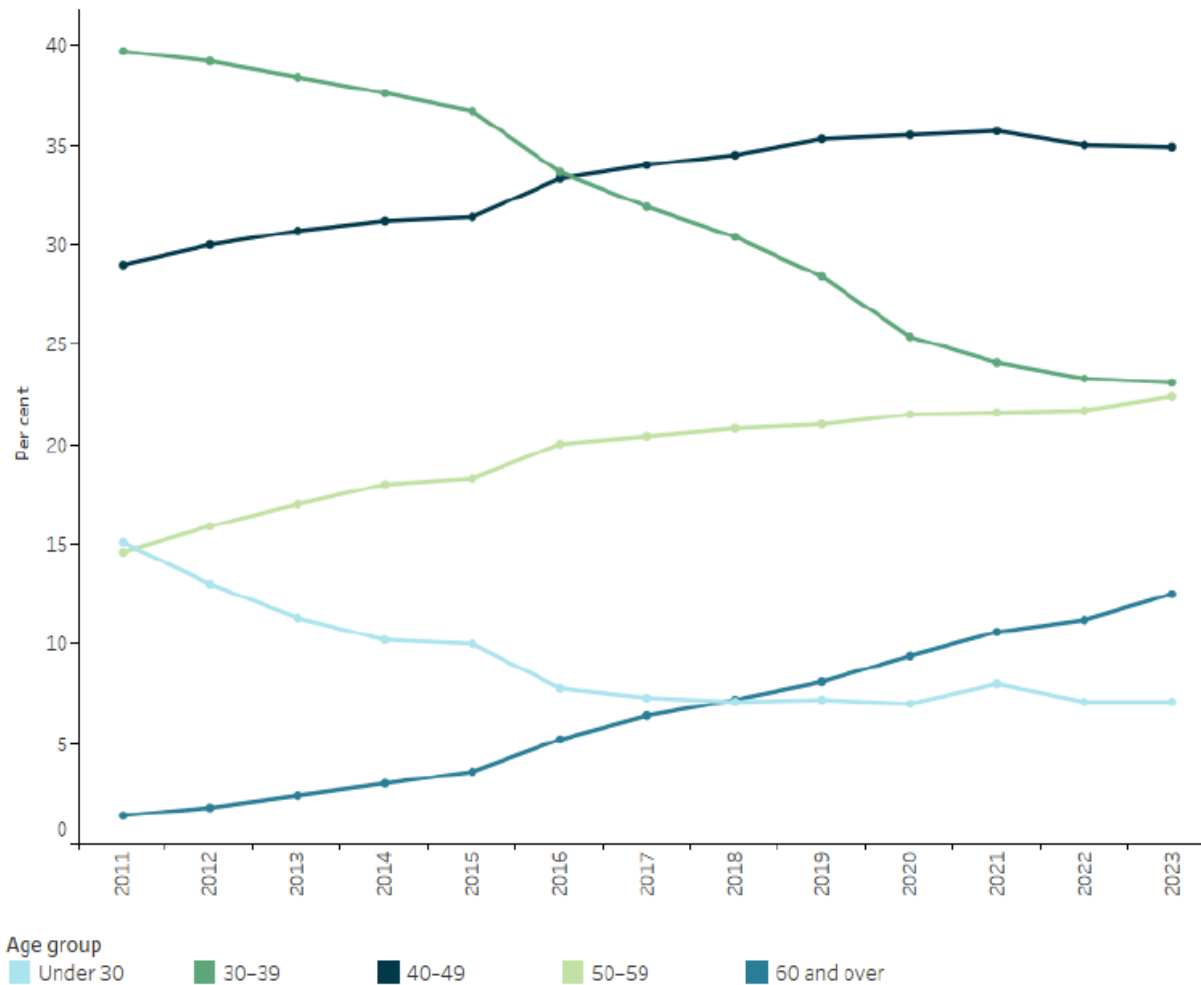
Collection predates PBS changes

Australia

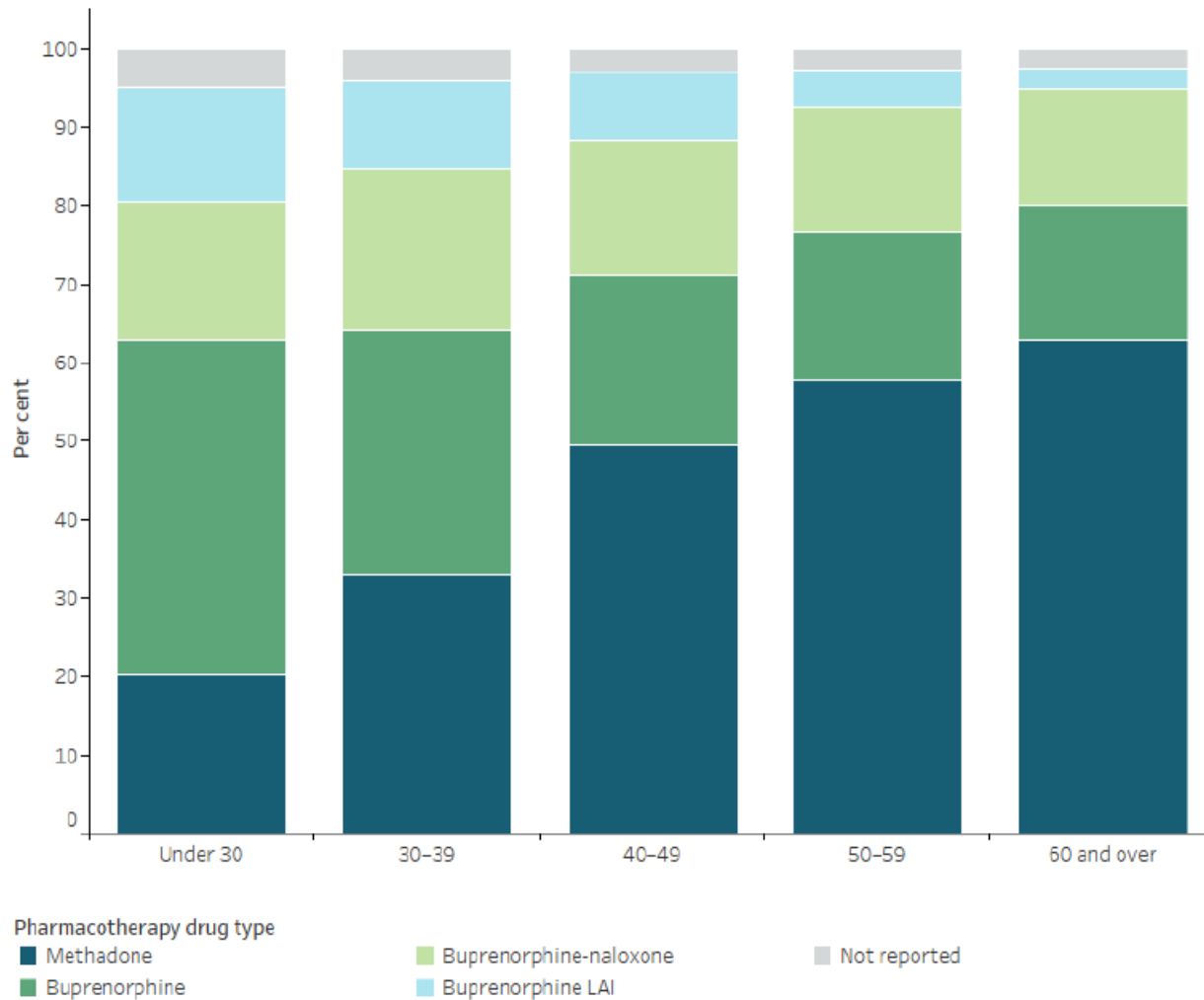


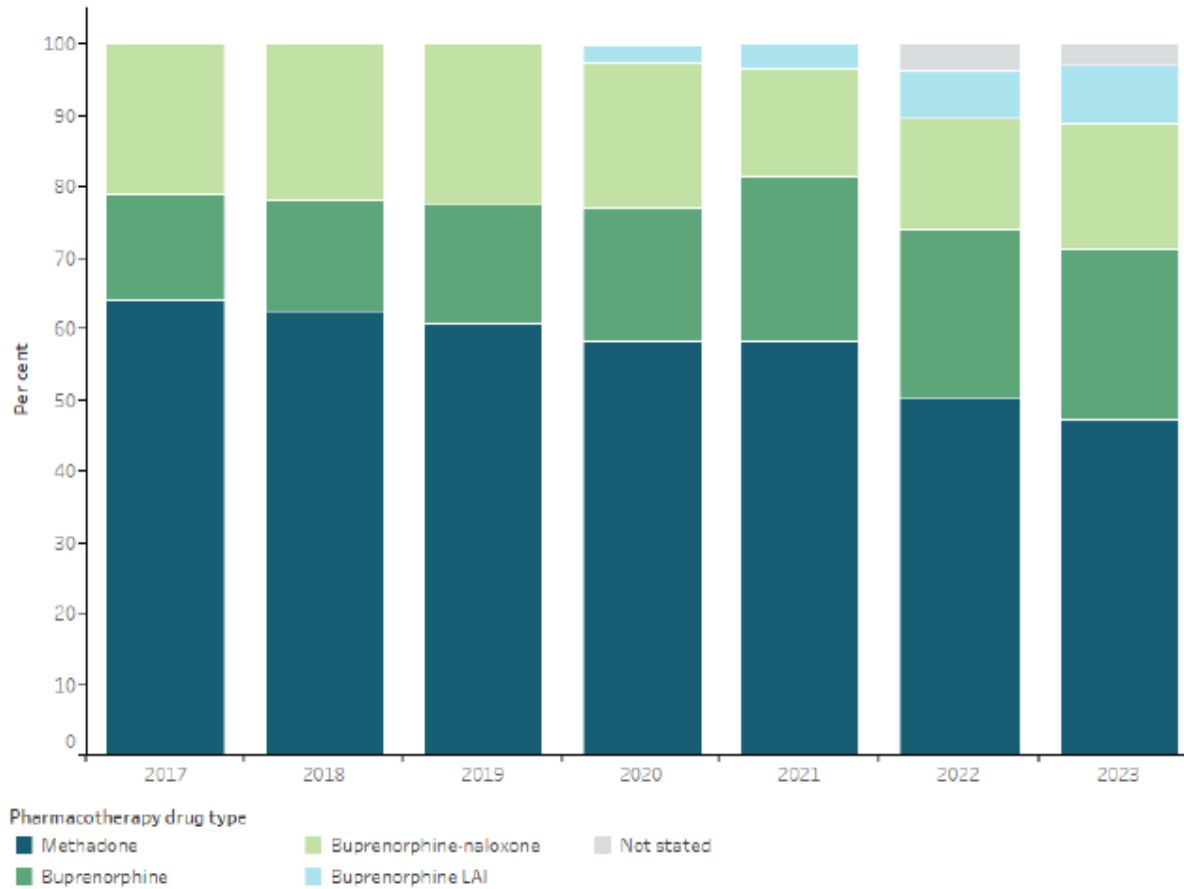
- 53, 272 people recorded on OAT (minus WA) - 22/10,000
- Median age 45, 67% male
- 2023 is first time that more people received buprenorphine than methadone
- ATSI rates 12% of all people on OAT (81/10,000)
- Prescribers treated average of 17 people each

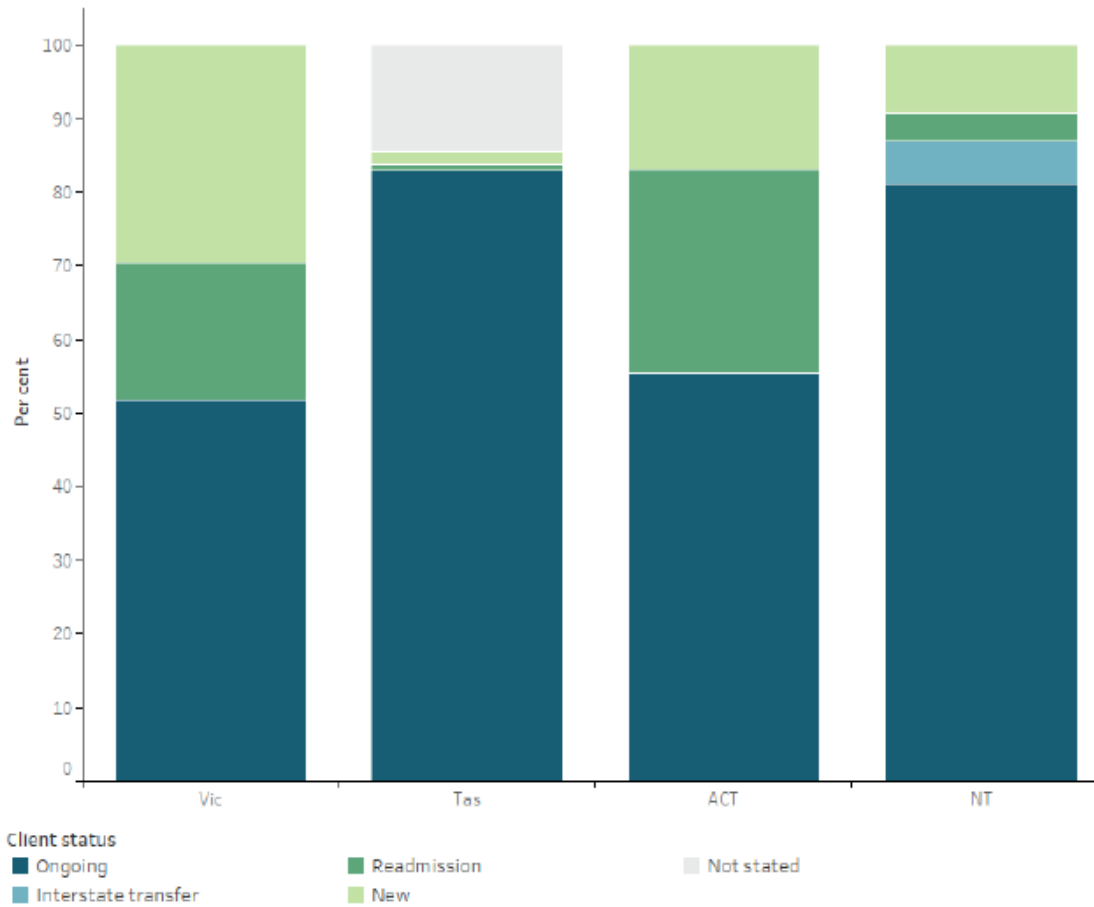
OAT by age groups



OAT type varies dramatically by age



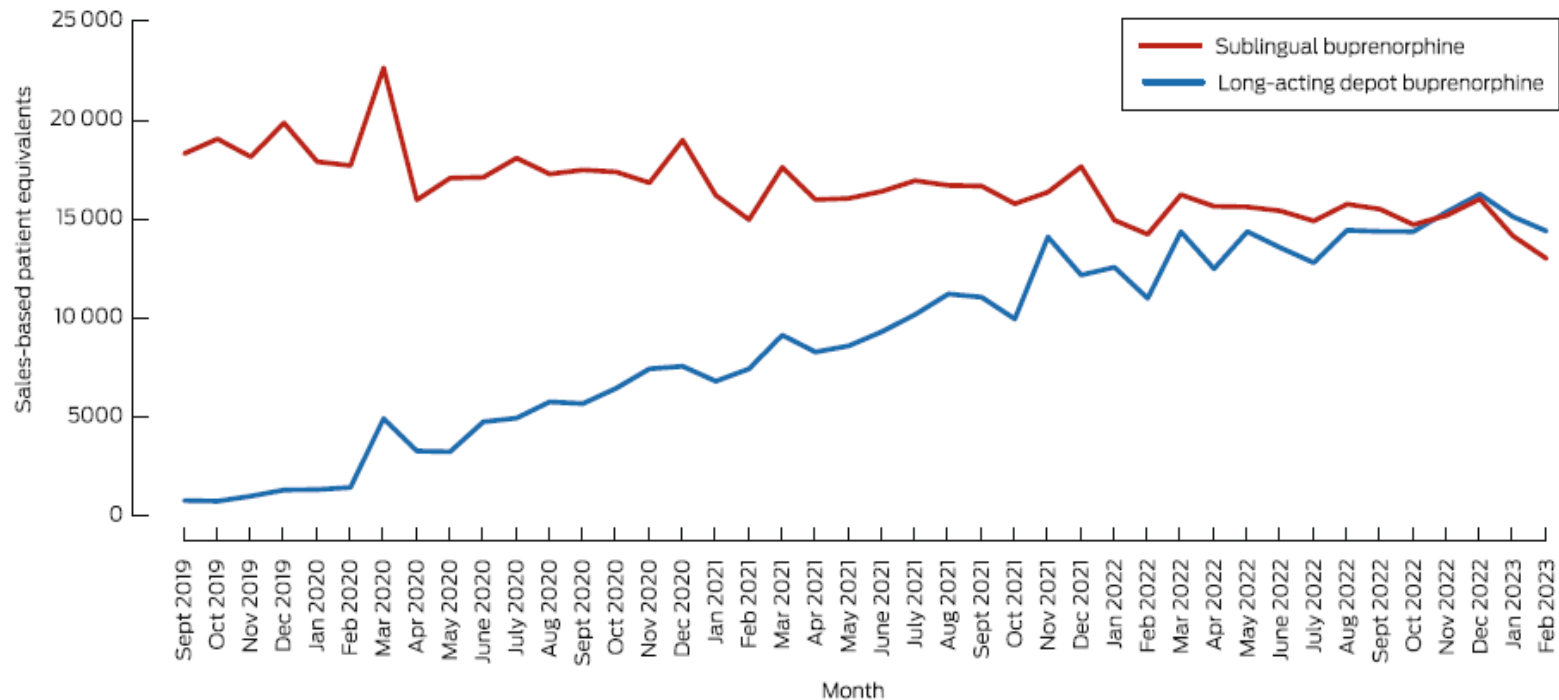




Sales data



1 Estimated number of people who received buprenorphine for treatment of opioid dependence, Australia, 1 September 2019 – 28 February 2023, based on reported sales numbers: by formulation type



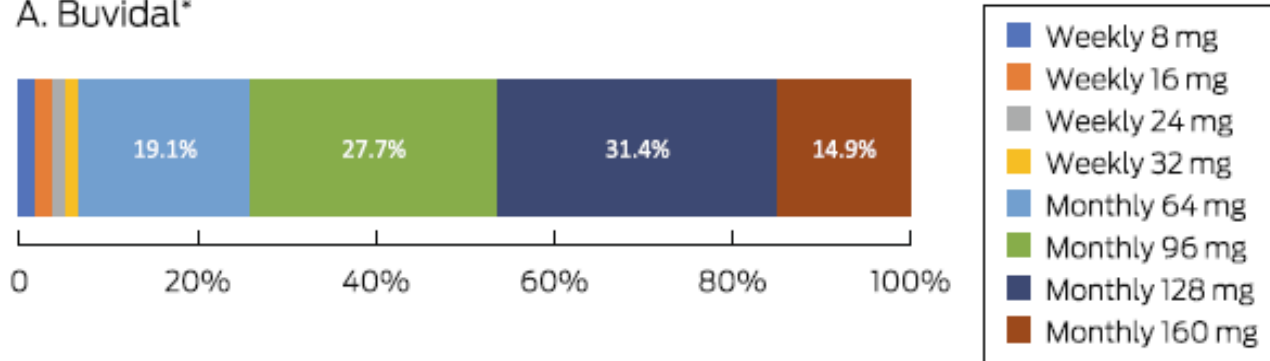
The uptake of long-acting depot buprenorphine for treating opioid dependence in Australia, 2019–2022: longitudinal sales data analysis

doi: 10.5694/mja2.52250

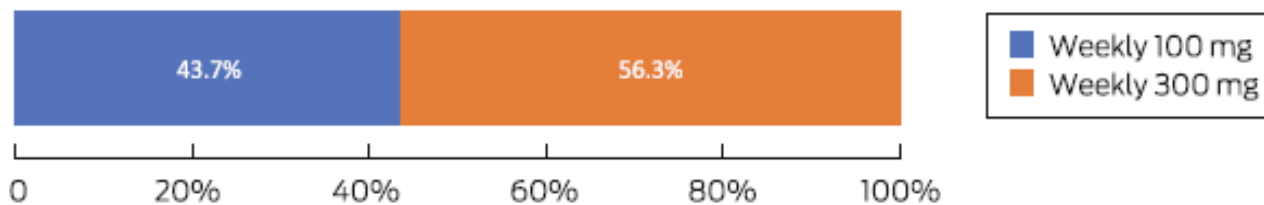
Doses of formulation

2 Long-acting depot buprenorphine doses sold in Australia, December 2022, by formulation

A. Buvidal*



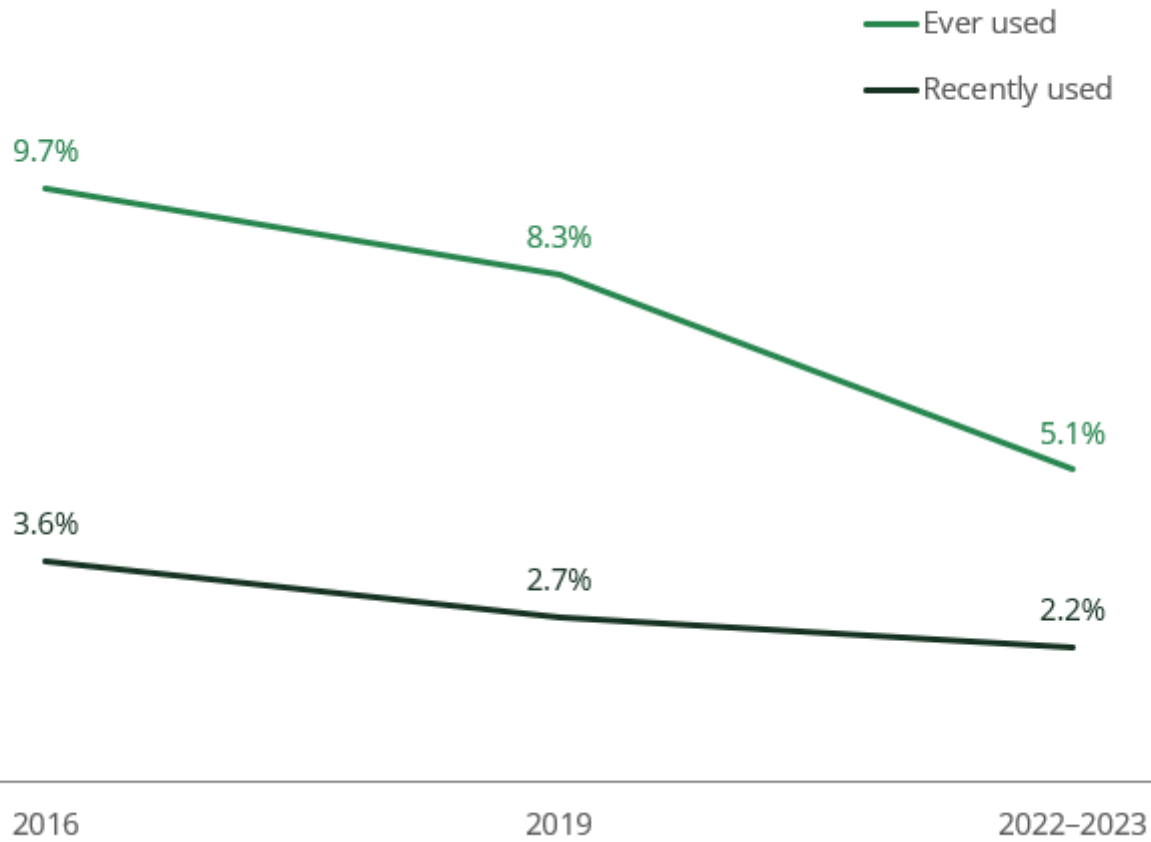
B. Sublocade



* Proportions for weekly sales: 8 mg, 1.8%; 16 mg, 1.9%; 24 mg, 1.5%; 32 mg, 1.6%. ♦

AIHW NDSHS 2022-23

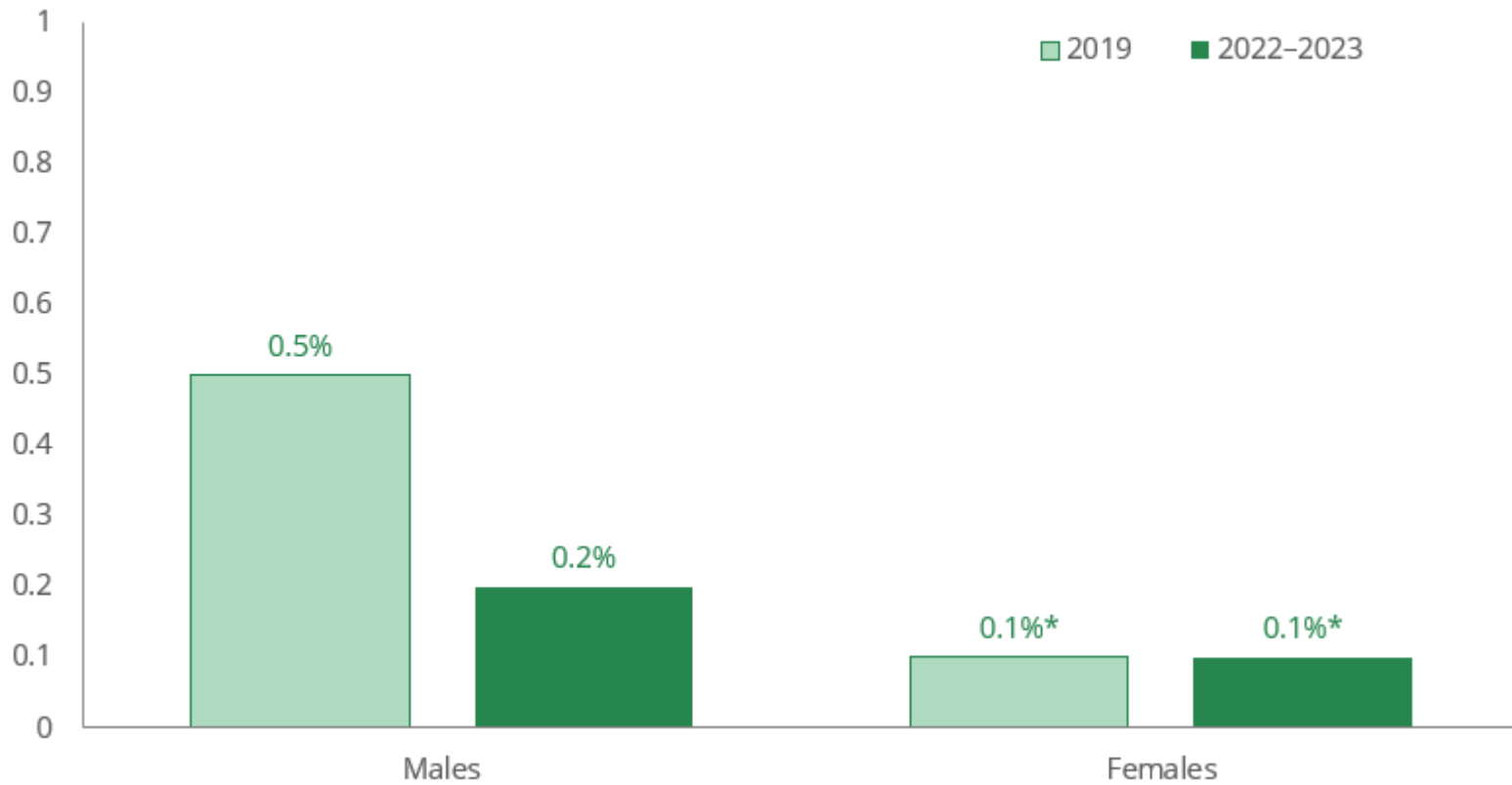
Figure 1: Use of pain-relievers for non-medical purposes, people aged 14 and over, 2016 to 2022-2023



Any recent injecting drug use

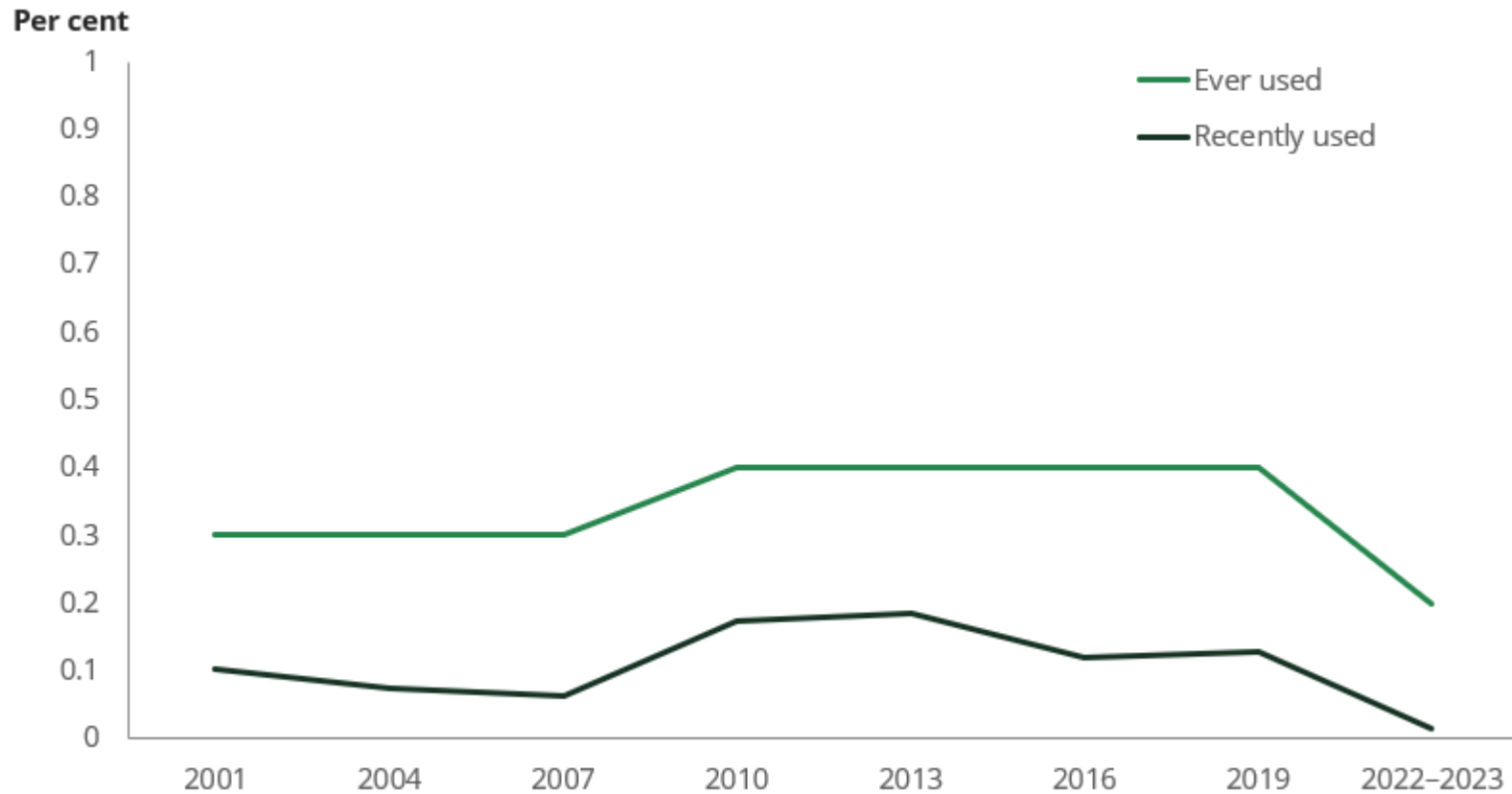
Figure 3: Recent injecting of any illicit drug, by gender, 2022-2023

Per cent



Non-medical use methadone - buprenorphine

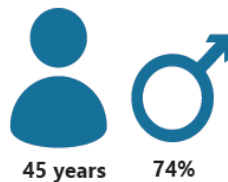
Figure 5: Non-medical use of methadone and buprenorphine in Australia, 2001 to 2022–2023



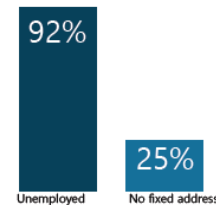
2023 SAMPLE CHARACTERISTICS



In 2023, 150 participants, recruited from Melbourne, VIC were interviewed.



The median age in 2023 was 45, and 74% identified as male.

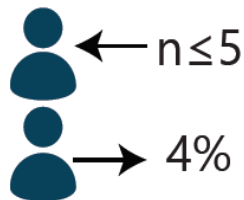


In the 2023 sample, 92% were unemployed and 25% had no fixed address.

- Injected heroin
- Injected methamphetamine
- Injected other illicit or non-prescribed drugs

Participants were recruited on the basis that they had injected drugs at least monthly in the previous 6 months.

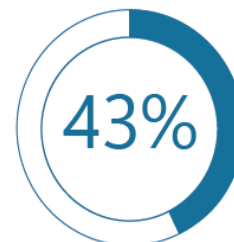
INJECTING RELATED RISKS AND HARMS



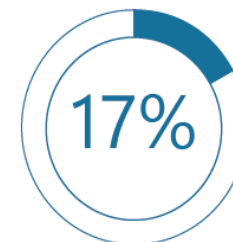
In 2023, few participants (n ≤ 5) reported receptive sharing in the past month and 4% reported distributive sharing.



One third (34%) of participants reported re-using their own needles in the past month, stable from 2022 (38%).

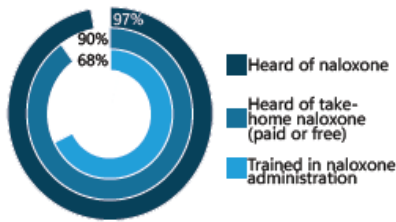


43% of participants reported injecting someone else after injecting themselves in the past month, stable relative to 2022 (34%).



17% of participants reported having an injection-related health issue in the past month, stable from 2022 (19%).

NALOXONE, HARM REDUCTION AND STIGMA



Knowledge of naloxone remained high and stable in 2023 relative to 2022, whereas there was a significant increase in knowledge of take-home naloxone and participants reporting having ever been trained in naloxone administration.



in 2023, one third (35%) of the sample reported ever using naloxone to resuscitate someone who had overdosed, with one in five (20%) having done so in the past year.

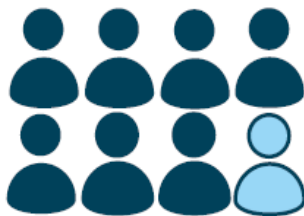


Half (49%) of the sample reported experiencing stigma because of their injecting drug use in the six months preceding interview, most commonly from police.

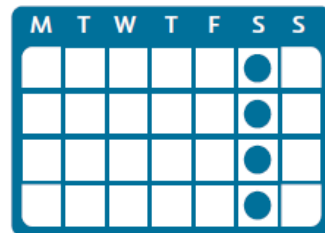


In 2023, 5% of the sample reported that they or someone else had tested the content and/or purity of their illicit drugs in Australia in the past year.

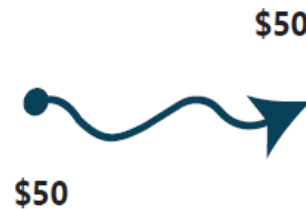
HEROIN



Past 6 month use of heroin was reported by 87% of the 2023 sample, stable relative to 2022 (78%).



Of those who had recently consumed heroin, 78% reported weekly or more frequent use, stable from 2022 (79%).



The median reported price for a point of heroin was \$50 in 2023, stable compared to \$50 in 2022.



Of those who could comment, 96% perceived heroin to be 'easy' or 'very easy' to obtain, stable relative to 2022 (92%).

Discussion

Data collection issues

Increasing age

Skewed OAT prescribing – physiological impact, OD risk

Penetrance of LAIB likely much higher than reported NOPSAD data

Reduction in non-medical use prescribed opioids – RTPM (Safescript), restrictions in OAT, COVID, other?

Hard to reach population – supermix study? IDRS? representations?