



Contraception use and menstrual health experiences amongst injecting and non-injecting groups of women who regularly use drugs in Australia

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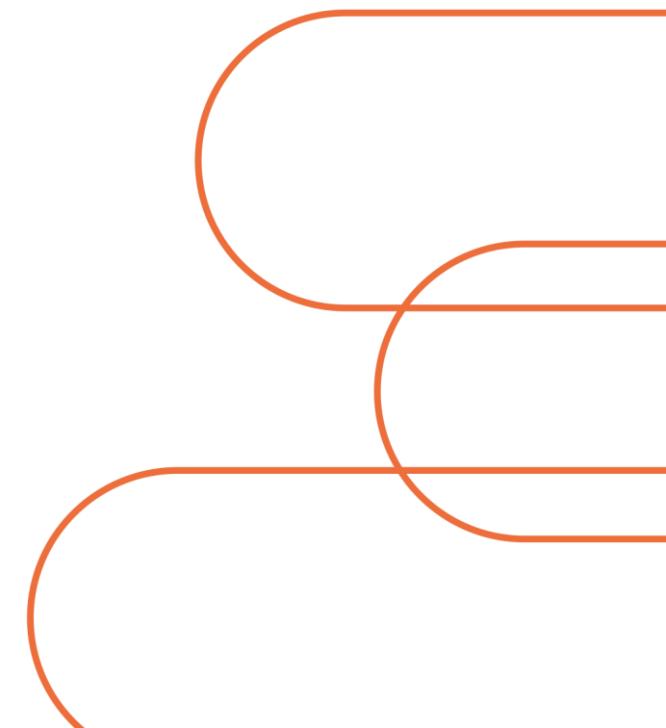


Background

- Previous research demonstrates poorer menstrual health and lower contraception use among women who use drugs when compared to the general population
- However, evidence to date has not examined variation within this population

Aims

- Describe the experiences of menstruation and contraception-use between two samples of women who regularly use drugs in Australia





Methods

- Surveys with people who regularly use drugs in each capital city of Australia in April-June 2024
- Ecstasy and Related Drug Reporting System (EDRS)
 - People who have used ecstasy and/or other illegal stimulants at least six times in the last six months
- Illicit Drug Reporting System (IDRS)
 - People who have injected illegal drugs at least six times in the last six months
- Participants assigned female sex at birth asked about current contraception use and menstrual health in the past 12 months
- Data descriptively analysed



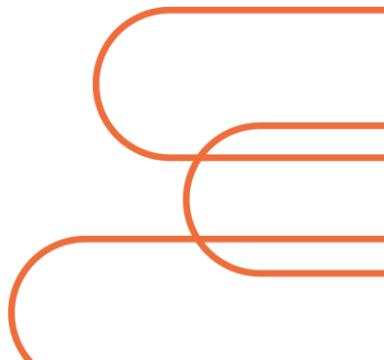
Results

EDRS participants (n=329)

- Mean age = 23 years
- Past 12 months period concerns:
 - Irregular periods (62%)
 - Heavy periods (64%)
 - Severe period pain (69%)
 - Trouble affording period products (23%)
- Current contraception use:
 - 28% not currently using contraception
 - 22% reported currently using oral contraceptive pill
 - 27% reported condom use.

IDRS participants reported (n=272)

- Mean age = 45 years
- Past 12 months period concerns:
 - Irregular periods (49%)
 - Heavy periods (54%)
 - Severe period pain (51%)
 - Trouble affording period products (27%)
- Current contraception use:
 - 68% not currently using contraception
 - 3% reported currently using oral contraceptive pill use
 - 10% reported condom use.





What does it mean?

- Sexual and reproductive health experiences of women who use or inject drugs are not homogenous
- It is important to collect and share data about these experiences to understand unique burdens experienced by different populations of women who use drugs
- Data will be compared with general population estimates collected through the Australian Longitudinal Study on Women's Health



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