

Recent advances in drug law reform

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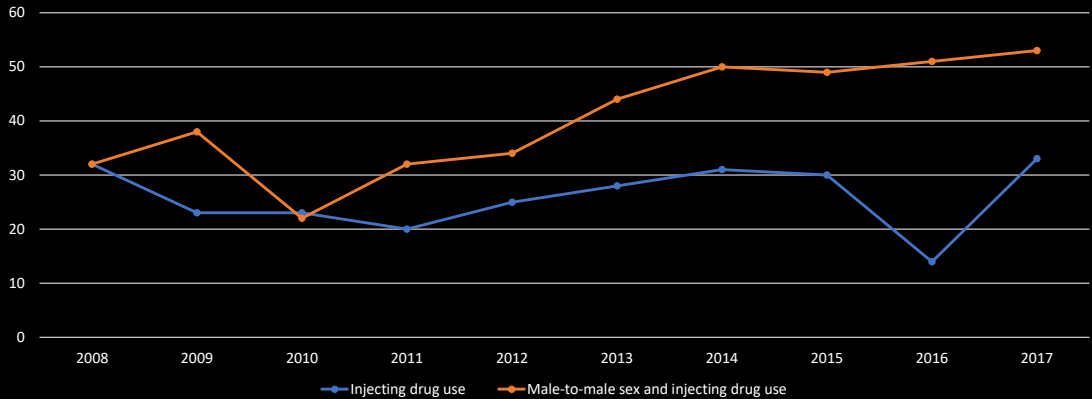
POSITIVE LIFE NSW

Overview

- HIV transmission and substance use
- Substance use among people living with HIV
- Inquiry into Drug Law Reform
- Parliamentary inquiry process
- Key recommendations
- Next steps

HIV transmission and substance use

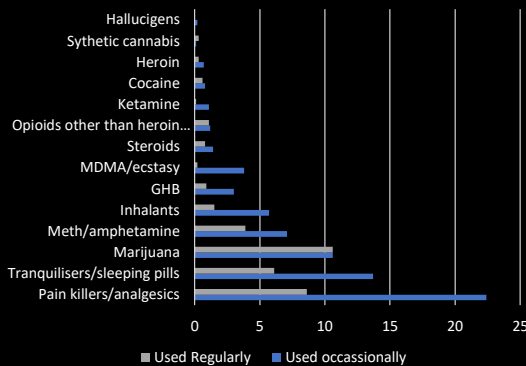
HIV risk exposure (Australia) by year (No.)



Kirby Institute. HIV in Australia: annual surveillance short report 2018. Sydney: Kirby Institute, UNSW Sydney, 2018.

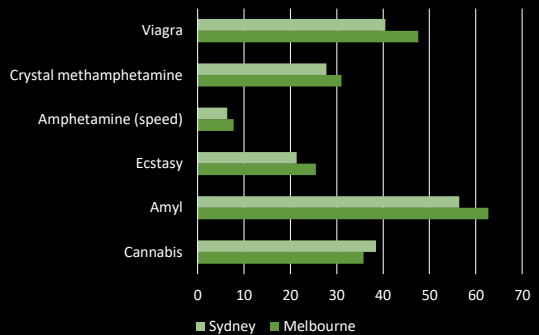
Substance use among PLHIV

Drugs used for non-medical purposes in the past 12-months



Power J, et al. HIV Futures 8: Health and wellbeing of people living with HIV. Melbourne: Australian Research Centre in Sex Health and Society, LaTrobe University; 2016.

Recreational drug use among HIV-positive (gay and bisexual) men in the six months prior to the survey



Lee E, et al. Gay Community Periodic Survey: Melbourne and Sydney 2017. Sydney: Centre for Social Research in Health, UNSW Australia; 2017.

Inquiry into Drug Law Reform

Terms of Reference

1. The effectiveness of laws, procedures and regulations relating to illicit and synthetic drugs and the misuse of prescription medication in minimising drug related health, social and economic harm; and
2. The practice of other Australian states and territories and overseas jurisdictions and their approach to drug law reform and how other positive reforms could be adopted into Victorian Law.

Parliamentary inquiries - process

- Terms of reference
- Call for submissions (open to all individuals and organisations)
- Committee hearings
- Site visits
- Final Report – summarises findings and recommendations
- Government response

Key recommendations

- Framework for effective drug law reform
- Community attitudes and drugs
- Personal use and possession offenses
- Cannabis regulation
- Medication assisted treatment for opioid dependence
- Minimising the spread of BBVs

Next steps

- Pragmatic, evidence informed drug policy
 - Start with decriminalisation
 - Legalisation
- Build allies across party lines