Mental Health Commission (WA) **Drug Attitudes 2016 SUMMARY REPORT**

August 2016

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1

Objectives and Methodology



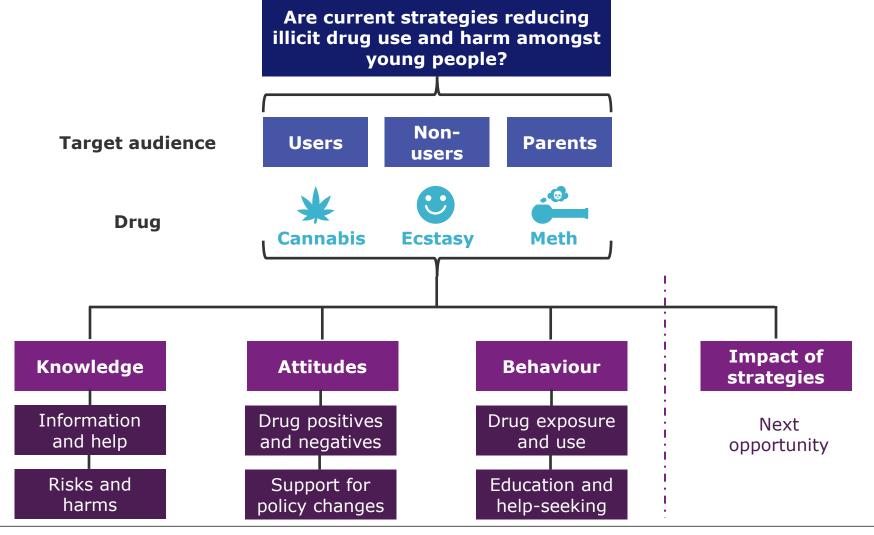








The research aims to measure whether current strategies are reducing illicit drug use and harm amongst young people.







426 young people and 314 parents were interviewed during April 2016.

	Young People 14-29s	Parents of 14-21s	
How	32 min online survey	34 min online survey	
When	April 1-12, 2016	April 1-12, 2016	
Where from	Thinkfield online panel	Thinkfield online panel	
Incentive	Apple iPad Mini prize draw	\$500 prize draw	
Response	426 interviews	314 interviews	
Weighted by	Age (14-17/18-21/22-25/26-29) within Gender (Male/Female);	Gender (Male/Female) within location (Metro/Regional);	
Weighted by	Location (Metro/Regional)	Age of child whose birthday is next 14- 17/18-21)	



Throughout this presentation, the green circles indicates a significantly higher score and the red circles indicates a significantly lower score at 95% confidence level for the subgroup compared with the total sample.





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Knowledge – Where to get information and help





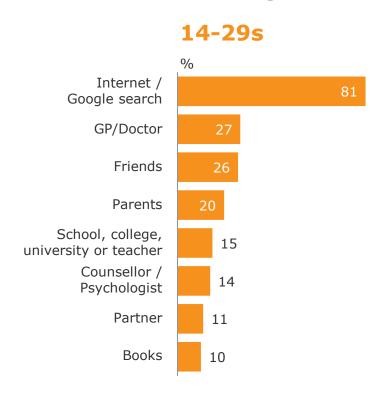


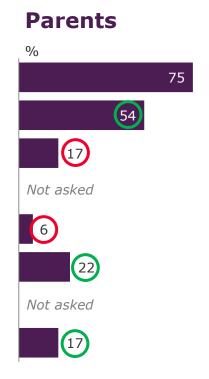




Internet searching is the main source of information about drugs, with GPs a secondary source (particularly for parents).

Information sources about drugs





Responses selected by at least 10% of young people

SOURCE: J1 If you wanted information or advice about drugs and their effects, where would you go to get it? , J3. If you wanted to get information or advice about drugs and their effects on your child, where would you go to get it?

BASE: All parents of 14-21s n=314, All 14-29s n=426





Young people primarily want information or advice about the effects of drugs, whereas parents also want information on signs of use, where to get help and prevention strategies.

Information or advice useful to know

14-29s			Parents		
1	Negative side effects	17%	1	Signs of someone / child using drugs	16%
2	Long term effects	15%	2	Side effects / What they do to you	14%
3	Side effects / What they do to you	13%	3	Where to get help, e.g. support services, helplines, websites	13%
4	Effects / harm to the body	9%	4	Long term effects	12%
5	Where to get help, e.g. support services, helplines, websites	8%	5	How to avoid or say no to drugs / Prevention strategies	10%

SOURCE: J2. What information or advice about drugs and their effects would you find it useful to know?, J4. What information or advice about drugs and their effects on your child would you find it useful to know?

BASE: All parents of 14-21s n=314, All 14-29s n=426

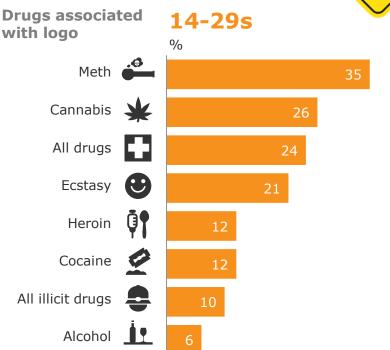


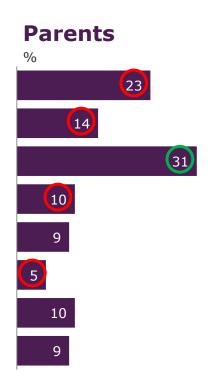


When prompted, most young people and parents recognise the *Drug Aware* logo. It is primarily associated with meth, followed by cannabis and then ecstasy. A quarter associate all drugs with *Drug Aware*.

63% of young people and 51% of parents recognise







SOURCE: J6 Have you seen or heard this logo or slogan before?, J8. Which drugs do you associate with Drug Aware logo? BASE: All parents of 14-21s n=314, All 14-29s n=426



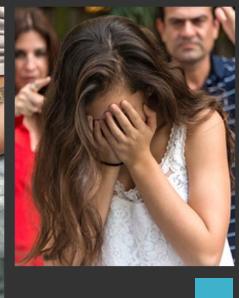


3

Knowledge – Risks and harms





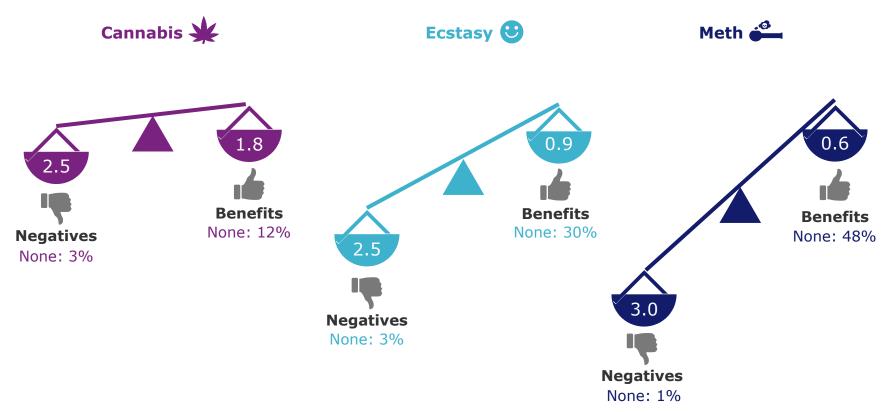






For each drug, young people spontaneously named more negatives than positives, but there was most balance for cannabis and least balance for meth.

14-29s Mean number of stated negative and positive effects from using...



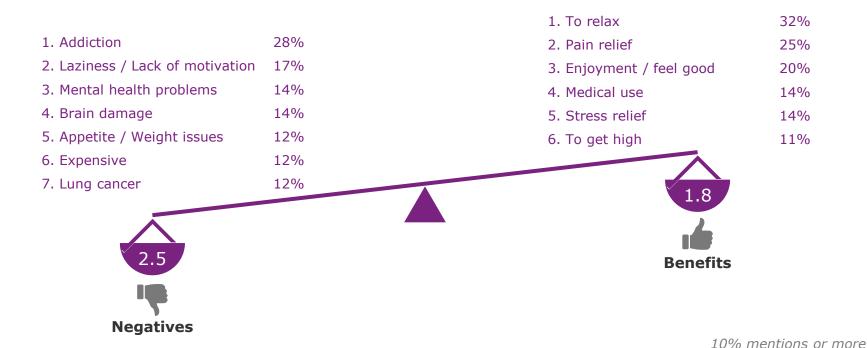
SOURCE: E1 / F1 / G1. What do you understand to be the potential negatives if any, from using cannabis / meth / ecstasy?, E2 / F2 / F2. What do you understand to be the potential benefits, if any, from using cannabis / meth / ecstasy?





The most salient negatives associated with cannabis are addiction and mind related effects. There are also a lot of salient positives, themed around use being pleasurable and medical/pain relief benefits.

14-29s Stated negative and positive effects from using cannabis



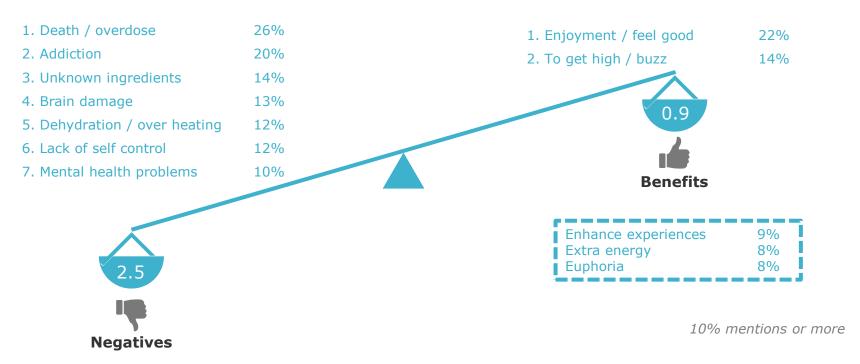
SOURCE: E1. What do you understand to be the potential negatives, if any, from using cannabis?, E2. What do you understand to be the potential benefits, if any, from using cannabis?





The two most salient negatives associated with ecstasy are death/overdose and addiction. There are relatively few salient benefits, and these are centred around enjoyment and getting high.

14-29s Stated negative and positive effects from using ecstasy 🙂



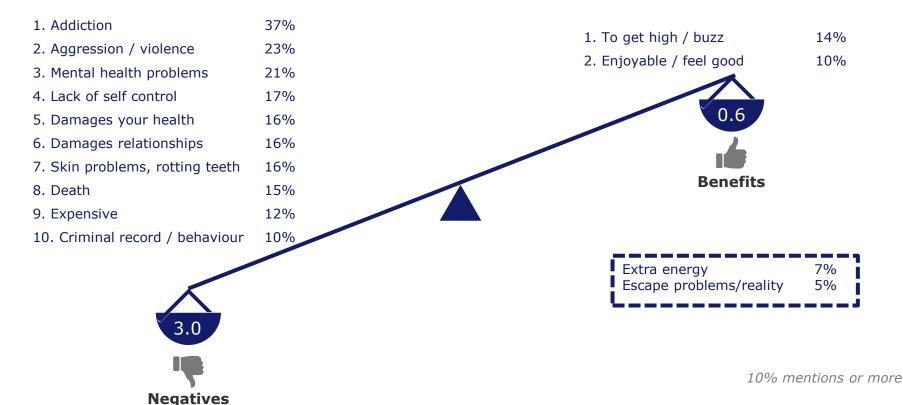
SOURCE: G1. What do you understand to be the potential negatives, if any, from using ecstasy?, G2. What do you understand to be the potential benefits, if any, from using ecstasy?





For meth, young people perceive a greater number of negatives, most commonly related to addiction, violence and mental health problems. As for ecstasy, getting high and enjoyment are the most salient benefits.

14-29s Stated negative and positive effects from using meth



SOURCE: F1. What do you understand to be the potential negatives, if any, from using meth?, F2. What do you understand to be the potential benefits, if any, from using meth?







4/5

Attitudes – Drug positives and negatives

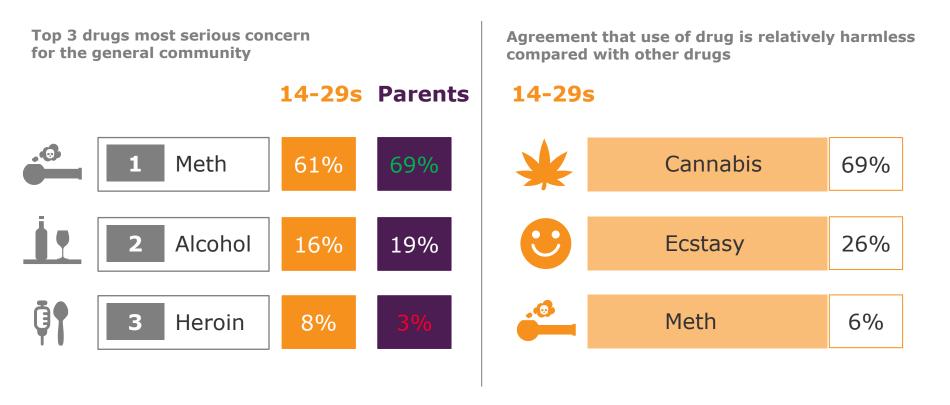








Meth is by far the most concerning drug for the community. In contrast, most young people think cannabis is relatively harmless compared with other drugs.



SOURCE: C6 Which one of these drugs do you think is the most serious concern for the general community?, E3 / F3 / G3(q). To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about [cannabis / ecstasy / meth] – [Cannabis / ecstasy / meth] use is relatively harmless compared with other drugs?

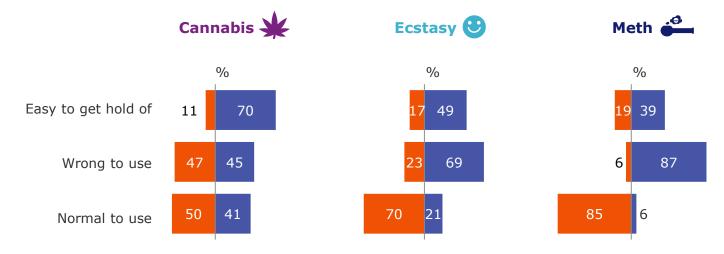
BASE: All parents of 14-21s n=314, All 14-29s n=426





Meth, and to a large degree ecstasy, are perceived to be wrong and abnormal to use, whereas young people are split on cannabis. All three drugs are perceived by sizeable proportions to be easy to obtain.

14-29s Morality and normality of using drug



■ Disagree ■ Agree

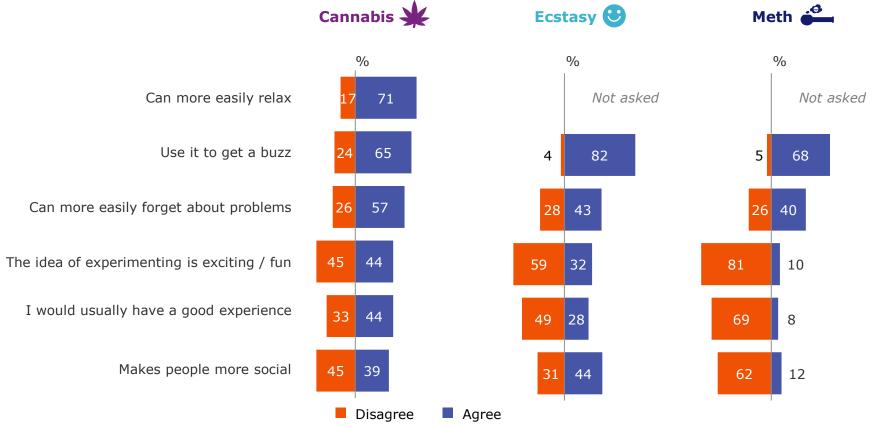
SOURCE: E3 / F3 / G3. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about [cannabis / ecstasy / meth]?





All three drugs are widely perceived to help people get a buzz and forget their problems. A sizeable minority link cannabis and ecstasy, but not meth, with excitement, being social and a good experience.

14-29s Benefits of using drug



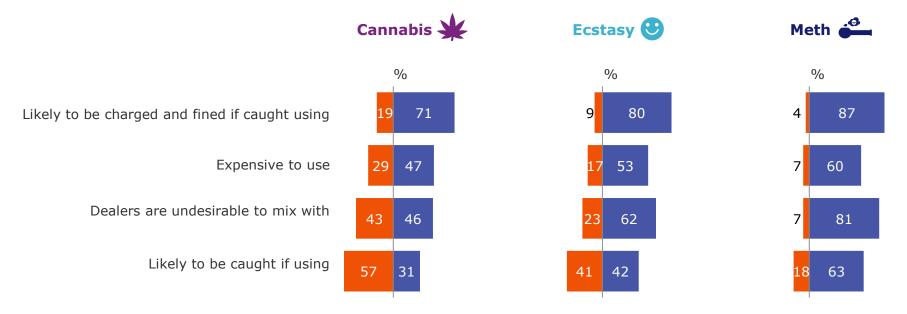
SOURCE: E3 / F3 / G3. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about [cannabis / ecstasy / meth]?





Most young people think meth users will get caught, but this is not the case for cannabis or ecstasy. Meth dealers are perceived to be a lot less desirable to mix with than cannabis dealers.

14-29s Financial and legal costs of using drug



■ Disagree ■ Agree

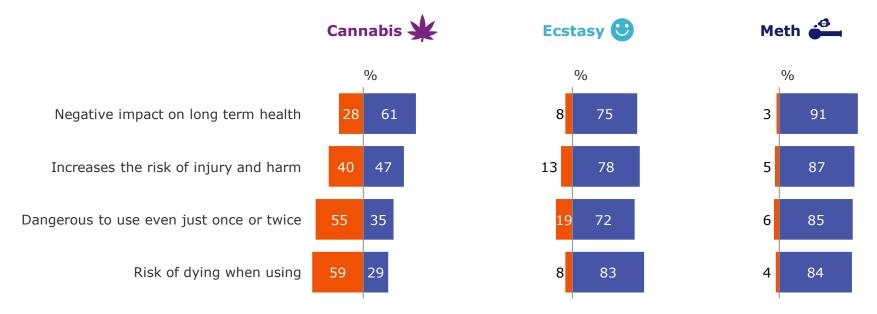
SOURCE: E3 / F3 / G3. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about [cannabis / ecstasy / meth]?





Meth and ecstasy are widely perceived to have major health risks. Whilst most also agree that using cannabis has a long-term negative impact, it is not felt to have short-term risks.

14-29s Health risks from using drug



■ Disagree ■ Agree

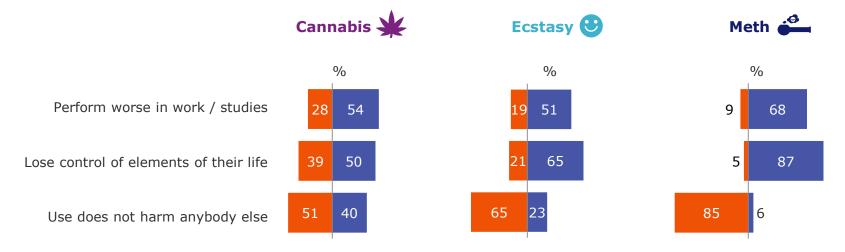
SOURCE: E3 / F3 / G3. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about [cannabis / ecstasy / meth]?





Meth use is perceived to more greatly harm other people and lead to loss of control than ecstasy, which in turn is greater than for cannabis. All three drugs are perceived to negatively affect work/study performance.

14-29s Other costs from using drug



■ Disagree ■ Agree

SOURCE: E3 / F3 / G3. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about [cannabis / ecstasy / meth]?





The most concerning effect of cannabis is an increased risk of mental health problems, for meth it is brain injury and mental health problems, and for ecstasy it is hydration imbalance.

14-29s Things most concerning about...

	Cannabis **	Ecstasy 🙂	Meth 👛
1	Can increase the risk of mental health problems	Can cause excessive thirst, over hydration and water retention	Can cause brain injury
2	The risk of mental health problems increases the more you use	Can cause seizures, strokes, heart attacks and cardiac failure	Can increase the risk of mental health problems
3	If you're caught you could get a Cannabis Intervention Requirement or a criminal record	The amount of MDMA and other ingredients varies greatly	Can cause seizures, strokes and cardiac arrest

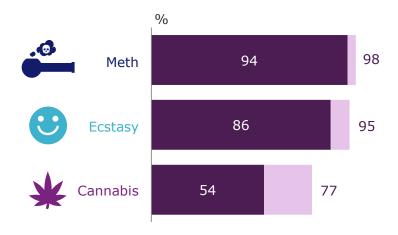
SOURCE: E6. Which of the statements about cannabis do you find the most concerning? G6. Which of the statements about ecstasy do you find the most concerning? F6. Which of the statements about meth do you find the most concerning?





Almost all parents would be extremely concerned if they found out their child was using meth and ecstasy, while only half would be extremely concerned if they found out their child was using cannabis.

Parents Parental concern if found out child was using...



Extremely concerned
Nett: Concerned

 ${\sf SOURCE:}\ E7\ /\ F7\ /\ G7.\ How\ concerned\ would\ you\ be,\ or\ are\ you,\ if\ you\ found\ out\ your\ child\ was\ using\ cannabis\ /\ ecstasy\ /\ meth?$

BASE: All parents of 14-21s n=314







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Attitudes – Support for policy changes

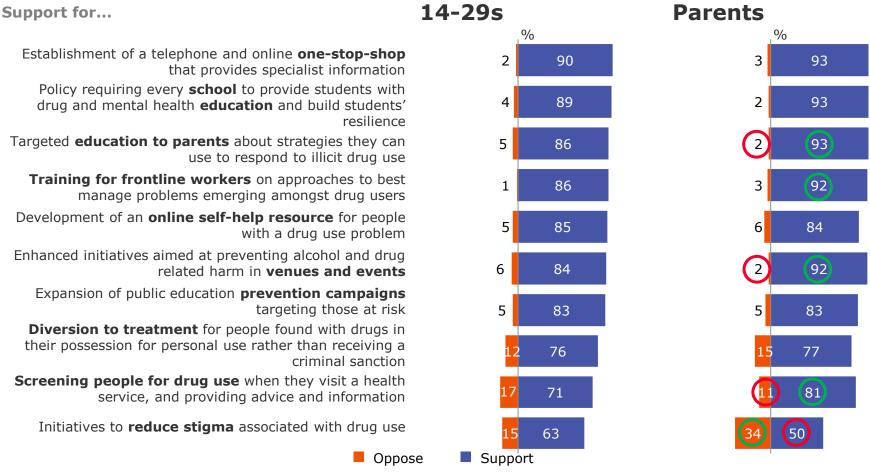








Support for measures to reduce drug related harm was very high, with double digit opposition only to diversion for treatment, screening for drug use and initiatives to reduce stigma.



SOURCE: I1. To what extent would you support or oppose the following measures to reduce drug related harm in Western Australia? BASE: All parents of 14-21s n=314, All 14-29s n=426





7

Behaviour – Drug exposure and use



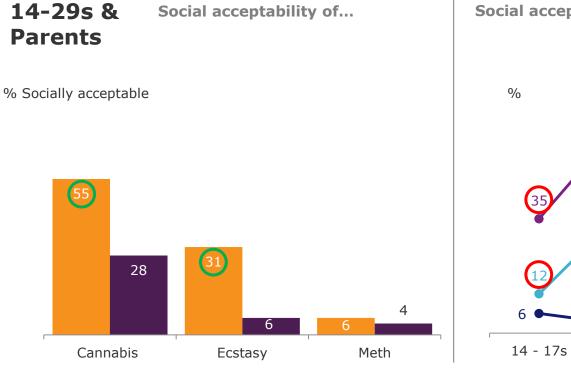




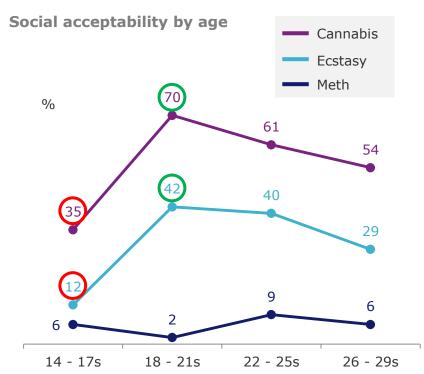




Within a young people peer group (particularly if age 18-21), the social acceptability of being a cannabis or ecstasy user is significantly higher than for parents. It is very rare for any peer group to be socially accepting of meth users.



Parents



SOURCE: C5. How socially acceptable within your peer group is it to be known as someone who uses... [cannabis / ecstasy / meth]? BASE: All parents of 14-21s n=314, All 14-29s n=426

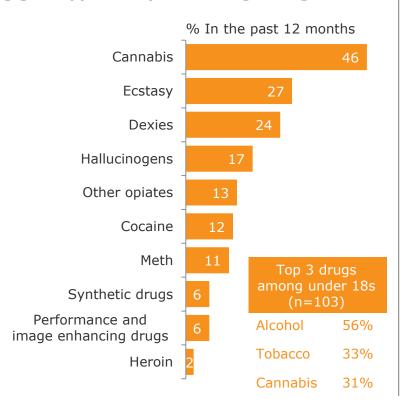




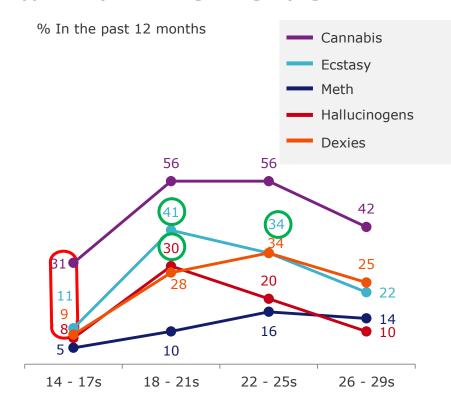
14-29s

In the past 12 months, nearly half of young people have had the opportunity to use cannabis, a quarter to use ecstasy or dexies, and 1 in 10 to use meth. Opportunity to use drugs peaks at age 18-25.

14-29s Opportunity to use illegal drugs



Opportunity to use illegal drugs by age

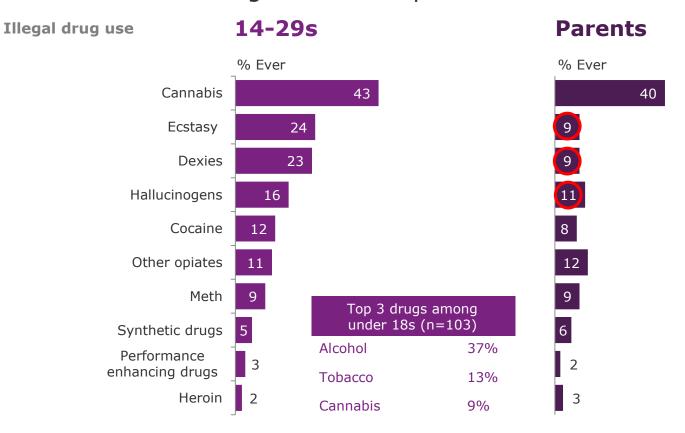


SOURCE: A3. When, if ever, were you last offered or did you last have the opportunity to use any of the following for a non-medical purpose? BASE: All 14-29s n=426





4 in 10 young people have ever used cannabis, making it the most commonly used drug, followed by ecstasy and dexies at a quarter. 1 in 10 have used meth. Young people have higher rates of lifetime ecstasy, dexies and hallucinogen use than parents.



SOURCE: B1. When, if ever, did you last use any of the following for a non-medical purpose?

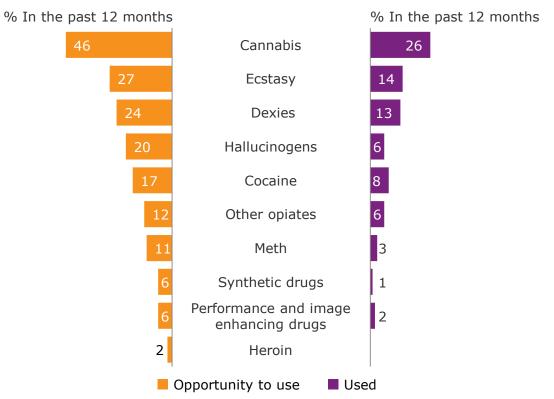
BASE: All parents of 14-21s n=314, All 14-29s n=426





In the last 12 months, the top three most commonly used drugs mirrored those they had the greatest opportunity to use: cannabis, ecstasy and dexies.

14-29s Opportunity to use vs. illegal drug use



SOURCE: A3. When, if ever, were you last offered or did you last have the opportunity to use any of the following for a non-medical purpose?, B1. When, if ever, did you last use any of the following for a non-medical purpose?

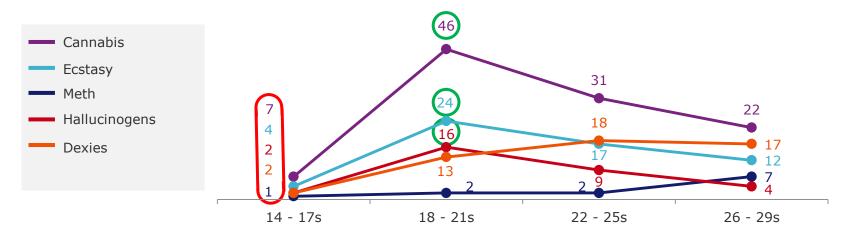




Drug use peaks at age 18-21 for cannabis, ecstasy and hallucinogens, but is at its highest at age 26-29 for dexies and meth.

14-29s Illegal drug use by age

% In the past 12 months



SOURCE: B1. When, if ever, did you last use any of the following for a non-medical purpose?





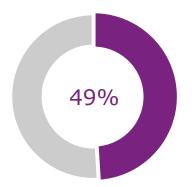
Looking at those who have used drugs, cannabis use starts at an earlier age than other drugs, and use is primarily driven by curiosity and backed up by peer pressure and excitement.

Mean age of first use

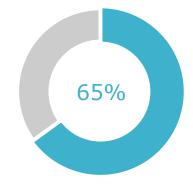






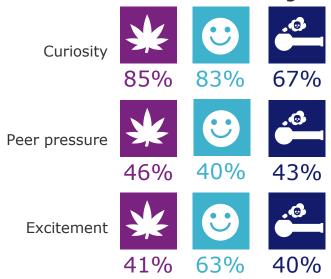


Half of cannabis users first used the drug aged 14-17.



Two-thirds of ecstasy users started using the drug aged 18-21

3 primary factors influencing first use for all drugs...



For ecstasy, a further major reason...

Enhancing experience at events, dance parties and raves







1/%

70%

32%

SOURCE: B2a. At what age did you first use [cannabis / ecstasy]? At what age did you / your friend first use Meth?, B2b. What factors influenced your decision to first use [cannabis / ecstasy]? What factors influenced your or your friend's decision to first use meth?

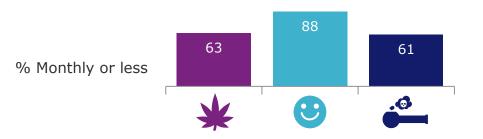
BASE: Ever used... Cannabis n=185, Ecstasy n=102, Meth n=76

TNS

Government of Western Australia Mental Health Commission

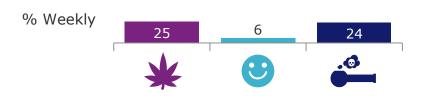
Cannabis and meth are used most frequently than ecstasy, and primarily at a house, whereas ecstasy is used when out.

Frequency of use for all drugs...





Cannabis (94%) and meth (77%) are most frequently used at a house – a friend's house, or (for cannabis) their own house...





... while **ecstasy** is usually used at parties (84%) or in licensed premises (42%).

SOURCE: B2c. How often do you use [cannabis / ecstasy]? How often do you use meth?, B2d. Where do you usually use [Cannabis / ecstasy]? Where do your or your friend usually use Meth?

BASE: Used in the past 12 months... Cannabis n=108, Ecstasy n=60, Meth n=48

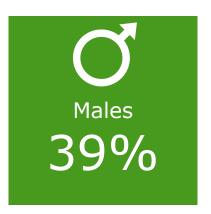




There were a few young people groups who were at particularly high risk of having used an illegal drug in the past 12 months.







35% of all young people have used an illegal drug in the past 12 months





† Cx
Practise religion
19%

SOURCE: B1. When, if ever, did you last use any of the following for a non-medical purpose? BASE: All 14-29s n=426







8

Behaviour – Education and help-seeking





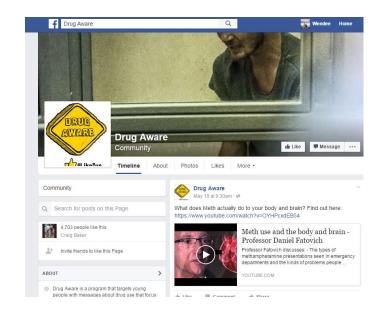




10% of young people have visited the *Drug Aware* website and 4% have 'liked' the Facebook page.



10% of young people and 4% of parents have visited the *Drug Aware* website 4% of young people and 2% of parents have 'liked' and 'followed' the Drug Aware Facebook page



SOURCE: J9. Have you ever visited the Drug Aware website?, J12 Have you clicked 'like' and 'followed' the Drug Aware Facebook page? BASE: All parents of 14-21s n=314, All 14-29s n=426

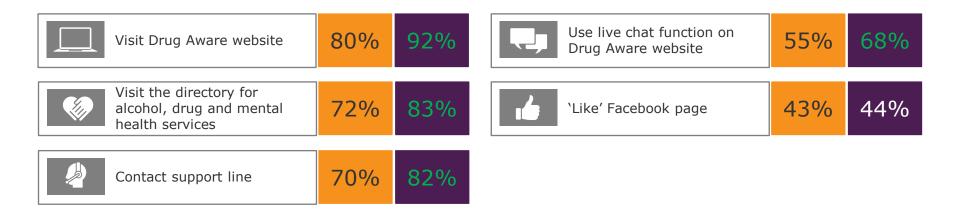




Parents are more likely than young people to engage information sources about drugs. Both groups are less likely to 'like' the Facebook page or use live chat than to visit the website or directory or contact the support line.

Likeliness to engage information sources about drugs

% At least a little likely



■ 14-29s ■ Parents

SOURCE: J10. How likely is it that you would visit the Drug Aware website?, J11 How likely is it that you would use the live chat function available on the Drug Aware website?, J13. How likely is it that you would 'like' the Facebook page to receive ongoing updates?, J15. How likely is it that you would visit the directory if you wanted information about alcohol, drug and mental health services for yourself or someone close to you?, J18 How likely is it that you would contact the Alcohol and Drug Support Line if you were concerned about your own or somebody else's alcohol or drug use?, J21 How likely is it that you would contact the Parent and Family Drug Support Line if you were concerned about your child's alcohol or drug use?

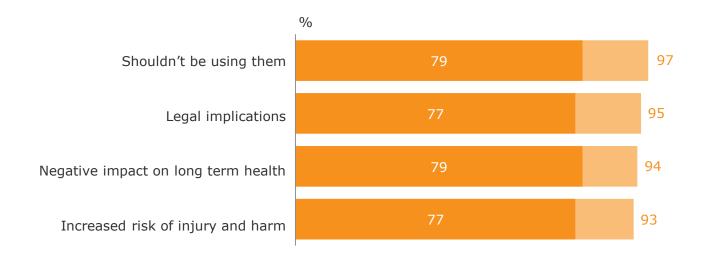
BASE: All parents of 14-21s n=314, All 14-29s n=426





8 in 10 14-17 year olds have learnt about illegal drugs at school in the past year, and almost all have at some point.

14-17s Last time learnt about at school in relation to illegal drugs...



Last 12 months Nett: Ever

SOURCE: H3. When if ever was the last time you learnt about each of the following at school?

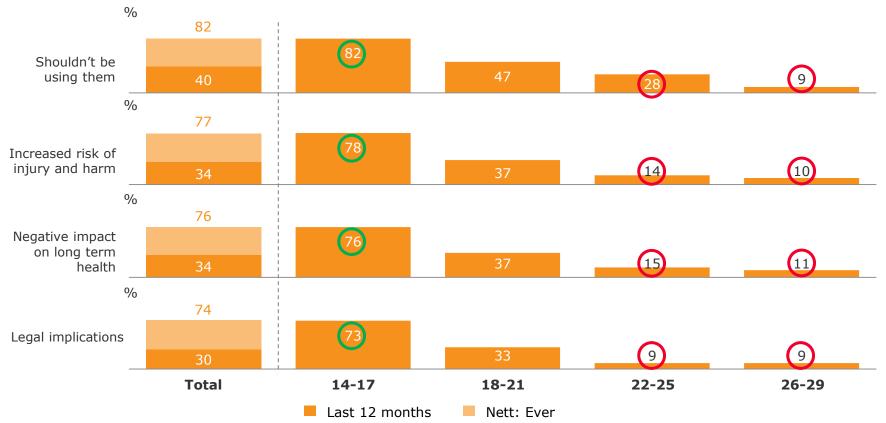
BASE: All 14-17s n=103





Whilst three quarters of young people have discussed illegal drugs with their parents, only a third have done so in the past year. According to young people, discussions tail off once young people turn 18.

14-29s Last time discussed with parents in relation to illegal drugs...



SOURCE: H2. When, if ever was the last time your parents discussed each of the following with you?

BASE: All 14-29s n=426





Thank you

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Mental Health Commission (WA) **Drug Attitudes 2018 PRESENTATION**

August 2018

Client Contacts: Jessamie Skinner

TNS Contacts: Allison Grainger Sarah Rasmussen Wendy Chow





Agenda

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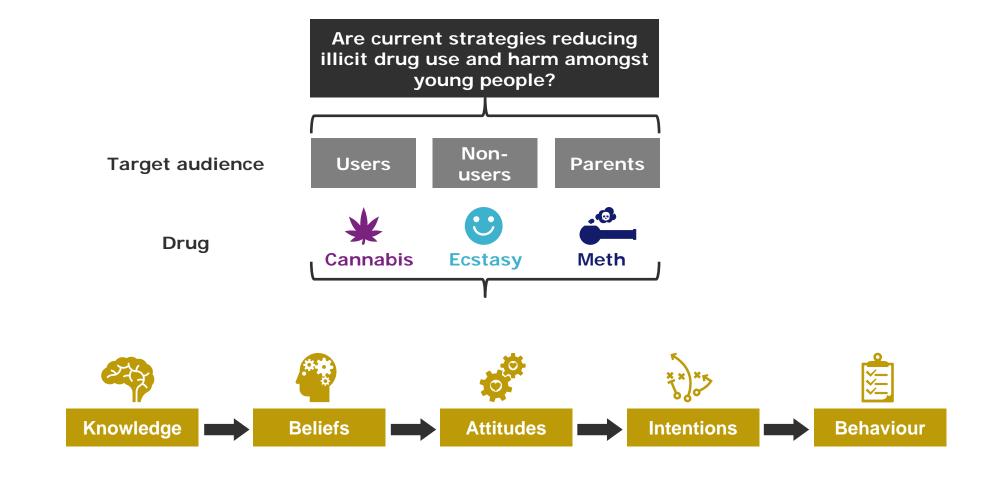
Objectives and Methodology







The research aims to measure whether current strategies are reducing illicit drug use and harm amongst young people.





Methodology



Approach

25 minute Online Survey



Timing

Fieldwork in May and June 2018



Sample

432 Young People 14-29 312 Parents of 14-21's



Weighting

Age by Gender, Location



Around 430 young people and 310 parents were interviewed during April 2016 and May/June 2018.

	Young Peo	ple 14-29s	Parents of	of 14-21s
	2016	2018	2016	2018
How	32 min online survey	25 min online survey	34 min online survey	25 min online survey
When	April 1-12, 2016	May 3 – June 6, 2018	April 1-12, 2016	May 3 – June 6, 2018
Where from	Thinkfield online panel	Thinkfield online panel	Thinkfield online panel	Thinkfield online panel
Incentive	Apple iPad Mini prize draw	Apple iPad Mini prize draw	\$500 prize draw	\$500 prize draw
Response	426 interviews	432 interviews	314 interviews	312 interviews
Weighted by	Age by Gender, Location	Age by Gender, Location	Gender within location, Age of child whose birthday is next	Gender within location, Age of child whose birthday is next



Throughout this presentation, the green rectangles indicates a significantly higher score and the red rectangles indicates a significantly lower score at 95% confidence level between 2016 and 2018 results.



The green circles indicates a significantly higher score and the red circles indicates a significantly lower score at 95% confidence level for young people compared with parent audiences.





2

2017 Campaign



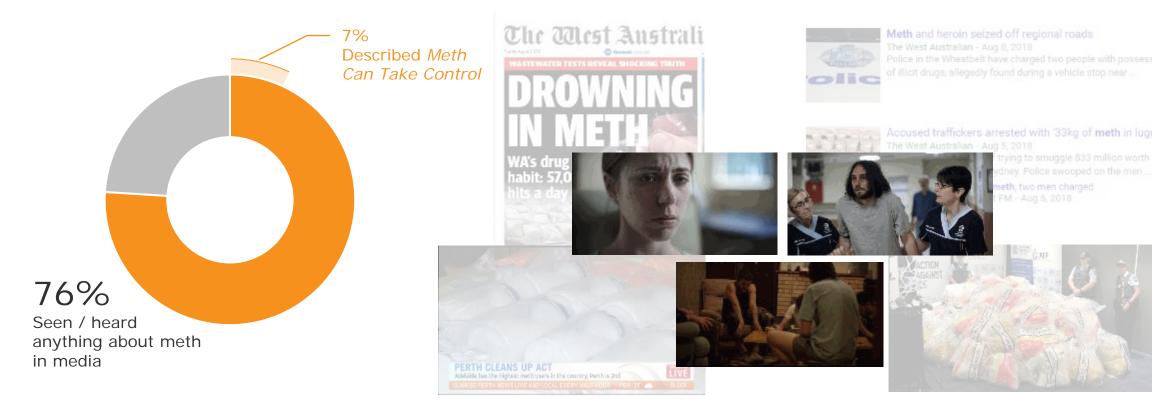






The *Meth Can Take Control* campaign has relatively low spontaneous awareness, BUT it is competing in a cluttered media landscape.

17-25s Spontaneous awareness of *Meth Can Take Control* campaign in 2017



SOURCE: C1. There are many ways in which you come across health messages these days. Do you remember hearing or seeing a campaign about the heath, legal and social impacts, consequences and risks related to methamphetamine use in any of the following forms recently?

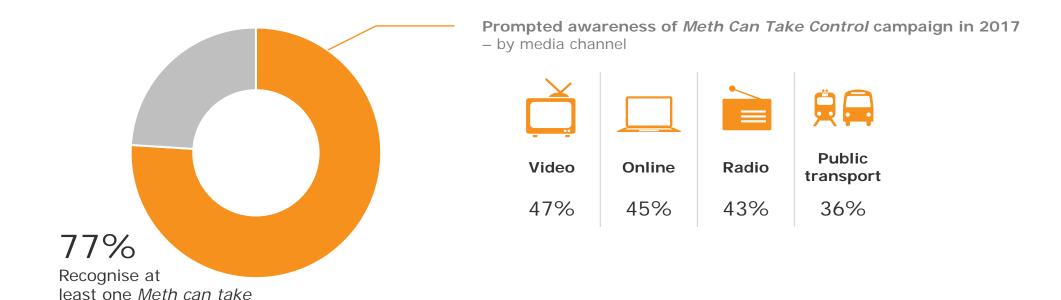
BASE: All 17-25s (Meth Campaign Evaluation 2017) 2017 n=322





When prompted, more than three-quarters indicated they have seen or heard at least one of the campaign's executions.

17-25s Prompted awareness of *Meth Can Take Control* campaign in 2017



SOURCE: C1. There are many ways in which you come across health messages these days. Do you remember hearing or seeing a campaign about the heath, legal and social impacts, consequences and risks related to methamphetamine use in any of the following forms recently?

BASE: All 17-25s (Meth Campaign Evaluation 2017) 2017 n=322

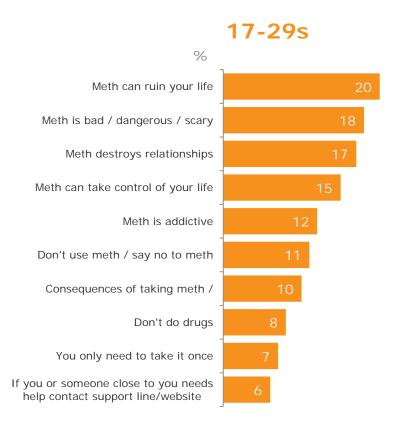
Control ad in 2017





The main messages communicated by the campaign were predominantly around the negative consequences of meth ... with the support lines and website also mentioned

Messages conveyed by campaign





3

Knowledge – Information sources and searching



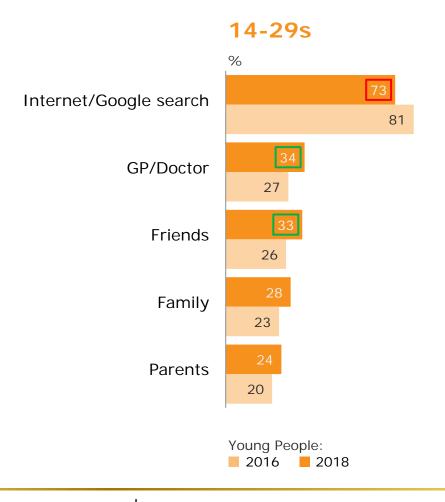


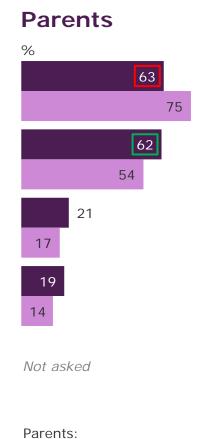




Internet searching as a source of information about drugs has fallen significantly this year ...

Information sources about drugs





2016 2018







... But visitation to the Drug Aware website specifically has increased since 2016 amongst both parents and young people



17% of young

of young people (10% 2016) and

have ever visited the *Drug Aware* website 9%

of parents (4% 2016)



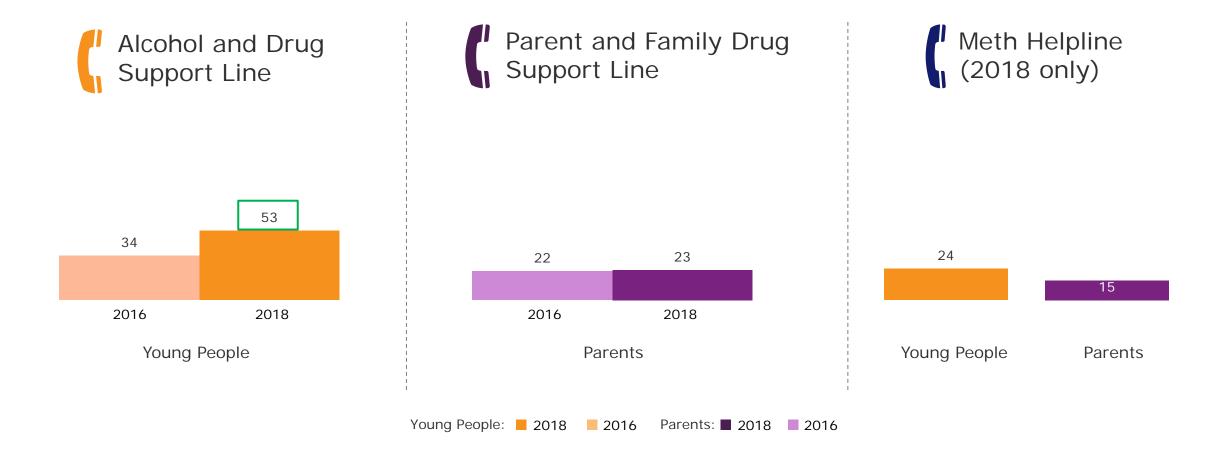
Likelihood to visit the website remains steady (and strong amongst parents) ... and parents engagement with the Drug Aware Facebook page shows strong growth

Likeliness to engage information sources about drugs

% At least a little likely	14-	- 29 s	Parents		
	2016	2018	2016	2018	
Visit Drug Aware website	54%	51%	79%	81%	
'Like' the <i>Drug Aware</i> Facebook page	23%	23%	24%	42%	



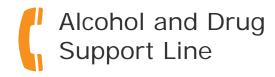
Awareness of the Meth Helpline is lower than for either the Alcohol and Drug Support Line or Parent and Family Drug Support Line amongst their target populations

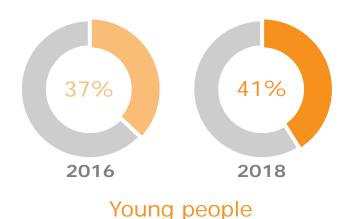




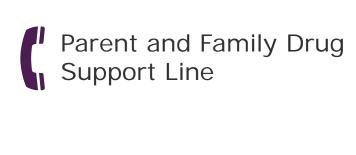


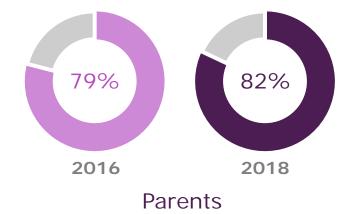
The likelihood of both parents and young people to reach out to helplines has increased slightly since 2016



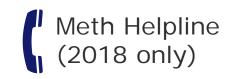


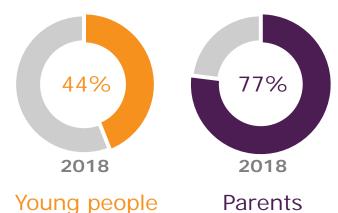
... are at least a little likely to contact the Alcohol and Drug Support Line





... are at least a little likely to contact the Parent and Family Drug Support Line





... are at least a little likely to contact the Meth Helpline



There has been as increase in the proportion of young people wanting information or advice about the side effects of drugs (driven largely by users), and about how to avoid using drugs (driven by non-users)







4

Knowledge & Attitudes



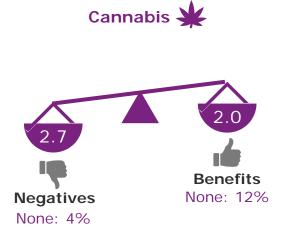


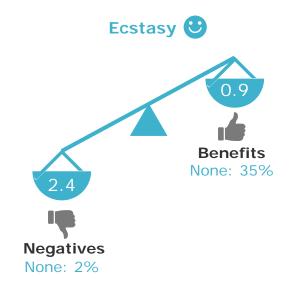


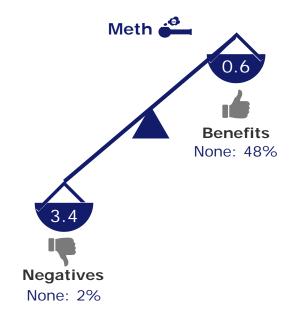


Young people's spontaneous knowledge of the harms and 'benefits' of cannabis and ecstasy shows a similar 'balance' to 2016 ... but there has been a slight increase in knowledge of the negative impacts of meth

14-29s Mean number of stated negative and positive effects from using...







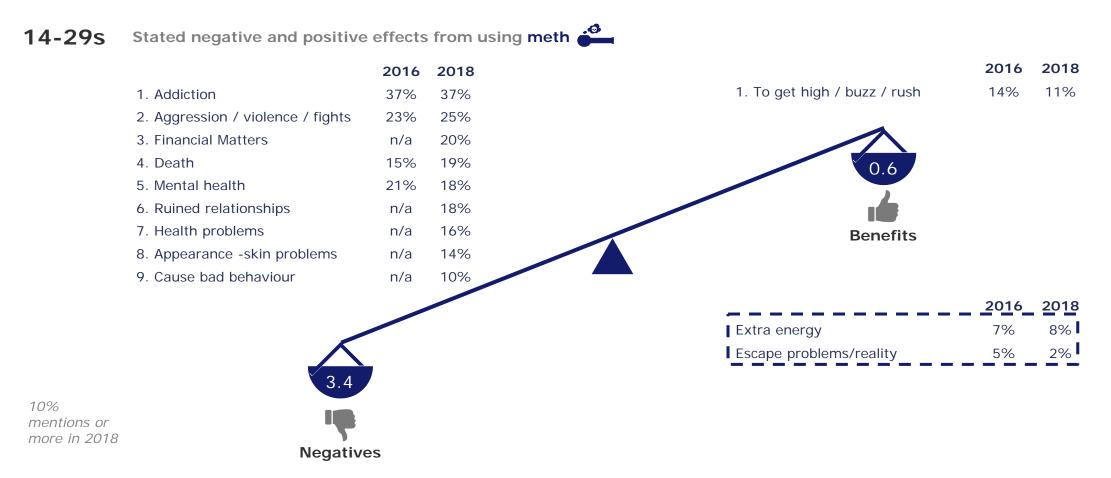
2018 Nett: -0.7 2016 Nett: -0.7

2018 Nett: -1.5 2016 Nett: -1.6

2018 Nett: -2.8 2016 Nett: -2.4



Addiction is the most salient negative effect of Meth, but this year there are a number of new downsides being mentioned ... perhaps at least somewhat attributable to the messages presented in the 'Meth can take control' campaign



SOURCE: F1. What do you understand to be the potential negatives, if any, from using meth?, F2. What do you understand to be the potential benefits, if any, from using meth? BASE: All 14-29s 2018 n=432





There has been no real change in prompted knowledge of the effects of drugs ... with parents still on average, more aware than young people

Prompted knowledge of effects – AVERAGE SCORES	14-29s %	Parents %
Cannabis	75%	84%
Ecstasy	85%	90%
Meth	90%	95%

SOURCE: E4. Here are a number of statements about the effects of cannabis. For each statement about cannabis, please indicate whether or not you have heard it before. BASE: All parents of 14-21s: 2018 n=312; All 14-29s 2018 n=432

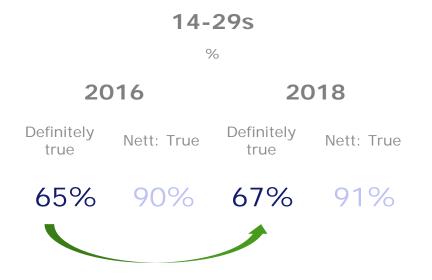


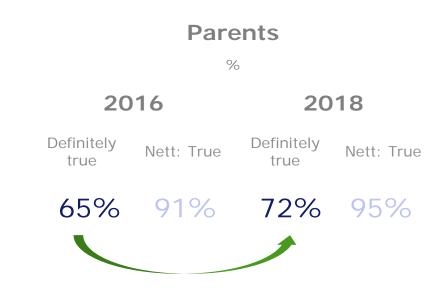


However, both parents and young people show slightly increased confidence in their knowledge of the effects of meth



Believability of effects –
AVERAGE SCORES



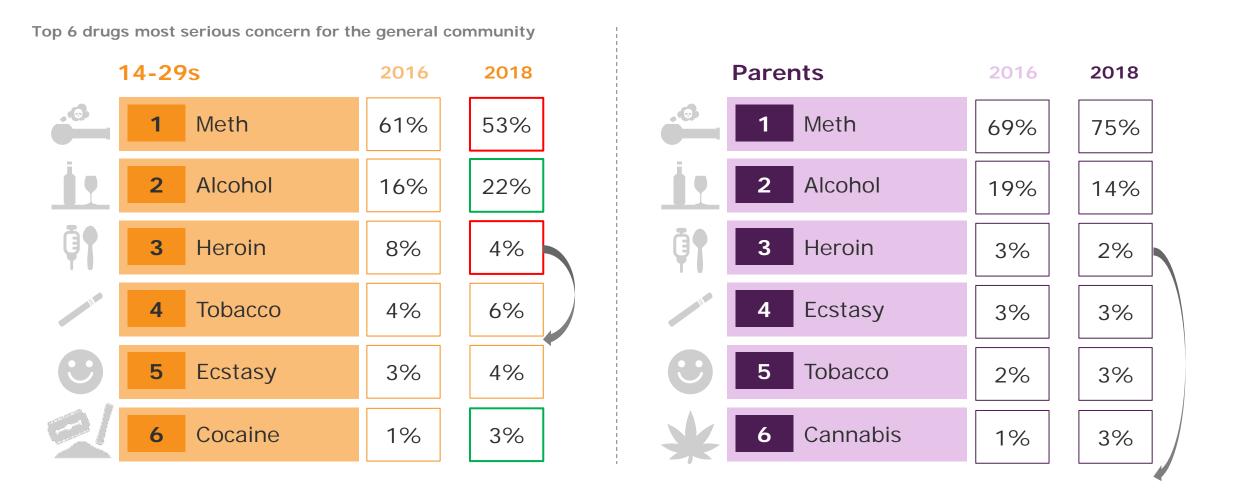


SOURCE: F5. For each statement about meth, please indicate whether or not you believe it to be true. BASE: All 14-29s 2016 n=426, 2018 n=432; All parents of 14-21s: 2016 n=314; 2018 n=312.





Meth remains the drug that is of most serious concern for the community ... though the proportion of young people who think meth and heroin are concerns has dropped since 2016, with alcohol and cocaine becoming more prominent





Brain injury and the risk of mental health problems are the top two most concerning effects of using meth among young people

Things r 14-29	nost concerning about meth	2016	2018
1	Can cause brain injury	23%	26%
2	Can increase the risk of mental health problems	21%	20%
3	Can cause seizures, strokes and cardiac arrest	16%	18%
4	Can become dependent, making it difficult to stop using	15%	17%
5	Can lead to social and emotional problems which affect relationships	12%	7%





While parents are more concerned about the increased risk of mental health problems and dependency

Things most concerning about meth 214-29s 2016 2018								
1	Can cause brain injury	23%	26%					
	Can increase the risk of mental							
2	health problems	21%	20%					
3	Can cause seizures, strokes and cardiac arrest	16%	18%					
4	Can become dependent, making it difficult to stop using	15%	17%					
5	Can lead to social and emotional problems which affect relationships	12%	7%					

Parents	2016	2018		
	increase the risk of mental th problems	40%	35%	
	become dependent, making it cult to stop using	15%	19%	
3 Can	cause brain injury	14%	13%	\
	lead to social and emotional plems which affect relationships	13%	17%	
	cause seizures, strokes and liac arrest	10%	12%	



Parents and young people are equally concerned about water retention / hydration imbalance caused by ecstasy use. Parents are also particularly concerned about the mental health problems caused by ecstasy too, but this isn't a top 5 concern for young people.

Things most concerning about ecstasy

14-2 2018							
1	Can cause excessive thirst, over hydration and water retention						
2	The amount of MDMA and other ingredients varies greatly						
3	Can cause seizures, strokes, heart attacks and cardiac failure	15%					
4	4 Can cause brain injury						
5	Can lead to overheating and dehydration	8%					

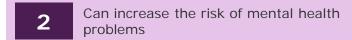
SOURCE: G6. Which of the statements about ecstasy do you find the most concerning? BASE: All parents of 14-21s: 2018 n=312; All 14-29s 2018 n=432

Parents

2018

1	Can cause excessive thirst, over
	hydration and water retention

24%



19%

Can cause seizures, strokes, heart attacks and cardiac failure

11%

The amount of MDMA and other ingredients varies greatly

10%

5 Ca

Can lead to overheating and dehydration

8%



Parents' concern about the mental health impacts of drugs also extends to cannabis ... which is also the primary concern for young people

Things most concerning about cannabis

14-29s 2018								
1	Can increase the risk of mental health problems							
2	13%							
3	The risk of mental health problems increases the more you use and the earlier you start							
4	Regular use increases the risk of lung cancer							
5	Can become dependent on, making it difficult to stop	7%						

SOURCE: E6. Which of the statements about cannabis do you find the most concerning? BASE: All parents of 14-21s: 2018 n=312; All 14-29s 2018 n=432

Parents

2018

1	Can increase the risk of mental health
-	problems

39%

The risk of mental health problems increases the more you use and the earlier you start

15%

Can lead to social and emotional problems which affect relationships

11%

If caught you could get a Cannabis
Intervention Requirement or a criminal record

9%

5

Illegal to possess, use or sell

9%



5

Intentions & Behaviour





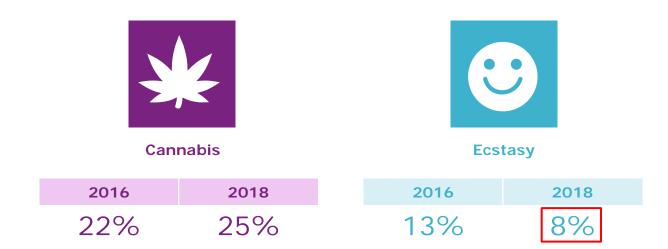




Young people's intentions to use cannabis has risen marginally since 2016, however, intention to use ecstasy has significantly declined

14-29s

In the next 12 months, intention to use is...



SOURCE: C4. Which of the following best describes your likely use in the next 12 months Of <INSERT DRUG>?





Unfortunately, intentions to use meth in the next 12 months has increased significantly – up from 1% in 2016 to 4% in 2018 ...

14-29s

In the next 12 months, intention to use is...



SOURCE: C4. Which of the following best describes your likely use in the next 12 months Of < INSERT DRUG>?





... However, this increase is driven entirely by existing drug users, particularly those who have used cocaine, hallucinogens and ecstasy

14-29s Intention to use meth in the next 12 months



		Used an dru		Cocaine	Meth	Hallucino gens	Ecstasy	Other opiates	Dexies	Cannabis
	Total	Ever	Never	Ever	Ever	Ever	Ever	Ever	Ever	Ever
2016	1%	3%	0%	4%	13%	9%	5%	10%	6%	3%
2018	4%	8%	0%	17%	16%	16%	12%	11%	6%	4%
change	+3	+5	0	+13	+3	+7	+6	+1	0	+1

SOURCE: C4. Which of the following best describes your likely use in the next 12 months - meth?





Furthermore, in the last 12 months, both usage and the opportunity to use illegal drugs has declined among 14-29s.

14-29s Opportunity to use vs. illegal drug use

Opportunity to use % In the past 12 months 53 49 13 12 10 11 10 10 27 24 6 17 2 Hallucinogens Other opiates Performance Nett: Any Ecstasy **Dexies** Meth Cocaine Synthetic Cannabis Heroin illegal drug and image drugs enhancing drugs **Used** % In the past 12 months 33 13 11 10 25 2

Hallucinogens Other opiates



Nett: Any

illegal drug



Dexies

Ecstasy

Cannabis

Cocaine

Synthetic

drugs

Performance

and image enhancing

drugs

Meth

Heroin

2018

2016

...and the average age of drug users is increasing

14-29s Illegal drug use by age

% Used any illegal drug in past 12 months

	14-17	18-21	22-25	26-29
2016	9%	51%	39%	39%
2018	12%	32%	41%	42%

% In the past 12 months

7 8 25 31 31 22 33

14 - 17s 18 - 21s 22 - 25s 26 - 29s

Cannabis

% In the past 12 months

24

17

17

4

1

12

14 - 17s

18 - 21s

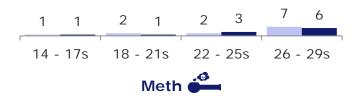
22 - 25s

26 - 29s

Ecstasy

2016

% In the past 12 months



SOURCE: B1. When, if ever, did you last use any of the following for a non-medical purpose?



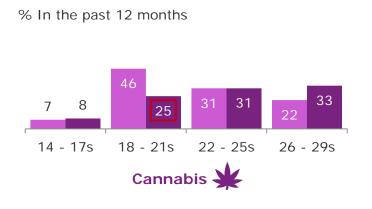


All of this suggests we now have a smaller, older and therefore more entrenched population of drug users, which may explain why intention to use meth has increased

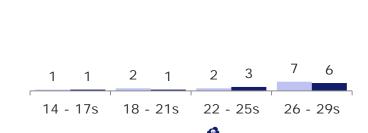
14-29s Illegal drug use by age

% Used any illegal drug in past 12 months

	14-17	18-21	22-25	26-29
2016	9%	51%	39%	39%
2018	12%	32%	41%	42%







% In the past 12 months

SOURCE: B1. When, if ever, did you last use any of the following for a non-medical purpose?





6

Policy







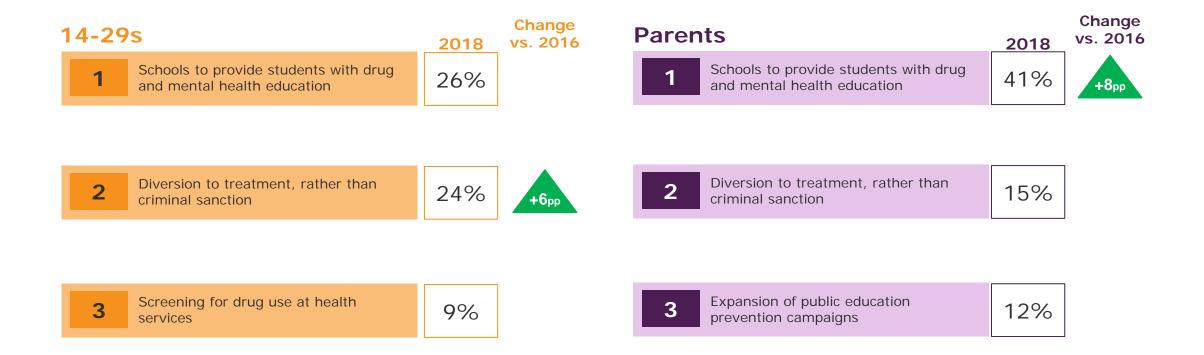
Support for policies and strategies to reduce drug related harm in WA remains high (particularly amongst parents) ... however, there has been a softening in the degree to which that support is "strong" amongst young people in particular

Nett support for 2018	14-29s	Parents		Average % "S	trongly Support"
Policy requiring every school to provide students with drug & mental health education & build students' resilience	84%	96%		2016	2018
2 Expansion of public education prevention campaigns targeting those at risk	81%	91%	14-29s	51%	43%
Targeted education to parents about strategies they can use to respond to illicit drug use	79%	92%			
Enhanced initiatives aimed at preventing alcohol and drug related harm in venues and events	79%	94%	Parents	59%	58%
Screening people for drug use when they visit a health service, and providing advice and information	69%	81%			
Diversion to treatment for people found with drugs in their possession for personal use rather than receiving a criminal sanction	66%	80%			
7 Initiatives to reduce stigma associated with drug use	59%	48%			



Young people and parents both believe compulsory school drug education, and diversion to treatment, would have the biggest impacts in reducing drug related harm in WA.

Top 3 impactful strategies in reducing drug related harm



SOURCE: 12. Which of these measures do you think would have the biggest impact in reducing drug related harm in Western Australia? BASE: All parents of 14-21s: 2016 n=314, 2018 n=312





7

Summary & Recommendations









So to summarise in terms of our behaviour change journey ...



Knowledge of the effects of drugs is already quite high and people's confidence in their own knowledge around the impacts of meth in particular is growing



Meth remains the drug of most concern for both parents and young people, with health impacts (brain in particular), mental health impacts and dependency the consequences most likely to drive concern



Intentions to use ecstasy have declined significantly since 2016.

While the intention to use meth has increased compared to 2016, the data suggests this may be an unintended side-effect of making progress in other behavioural outcomes.



Behaviour is headed in the right direction overall – both the opportunity to use drugs and actual usage have declined slightly compared with 2016 – and the average age of users is increasing



Recommendations

1

Understand that as the pool of drug users shrinks, we may be looking at a harder and harder task ahead to achieve further behavioural change among those who remain

... Continued monitoring will be necessary to see whether the trends seen in 2018 continue and further research may be required to understand whether our strategies need to be adjusted in light of the changing landscape

2

Continue to track usage over time to understand whether we are seeing a true cohort effect in the age-pattern of usage

... if so, it may be valuable to understand how the younger cohort differs from its predecessors – what are the protective factors and what messages have resonated? How can we leverage this knowledge for future cohorts?

3

Continue to invest in online assets (the website and Facebook page) as well as helplines, as these have good and growing awareness and usage among both parents and young people

Thank you

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