

Executive Summary

The Sydney New South Wales (NSW) EDRS comprises a sentinel sample of people who regularly use ecstasy and/or other illicit stimulants, recruited via social media, advertisements on websites and via word-of-mouth in Sydney, NSW. The results are not representative of all people who use illicit drugs, nor of use in the general population. Data were collected in 2024 from April-June. Interviews from 2020 onwards were delivered face-to-face as well as via telephone, to reduce the risk

stable relative to 2023 (41%). Among those who reported recent use, significantly fewer participants reported using modafinil in 2024 (15%) compared to 2023 (21%).

Among recent drivers, 22% reported driving while over the perceived legal limit of alcohol, and 46% reported driving within three hours of consuming an illicit or non-prescribed drug in the past six months.

Eight per cent of participants reported past year arrest, while 19% reported a drug-related encounter with police which did not result in charge or arrest (e.g., stopped and searched/questioned).

In 2024, the most popular means of arranging the purchase of illicit or non-prescribed drugs in the 12 months preceding interview was face-to-face (66%), followed by social networking or messaging applications (64%). Most participants continued to report obtaining illicit drugs from a friend/relative/partner/colleague (84%).