Methamphetamine use among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

According to a national survey:

- 95% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people did not use amphetamines.
- Use was more common among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men than women.
  - 6% men
  - 3% women
- Use was twice as high for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people than for non-Indigenous people.

Several studies have shown that amphetamine use is increasing in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population.

There is also a shift to a stronger form of the drug known as ice (crystal methamphetamine).

Harms from methamphetamine use

Not everyone who uses ice experiences problems or severe side effects, but the drug is associated with:

- Harms to physical health
- Harms to mental health
- Community and family issues:
  - Violence and unstable family lives
  - Child neglect
  - Issues with money
  - Crime
  - Community concerns about safety

Addressing methamphetamine use

Evidence shows that addressing methamphetamine use among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people needs strategies that:

- Include family supports
- Are culturally appropriate
- Are holistic and address the social determinants of health
- Use a strength-based approach
- Are tailored to the community

Based on:

Please see the review for a full reference list.

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