

ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG TREATMENT SEEKING BEHAVIOURS AMONG CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY WORKERS

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There is significant workforce productivity loss related to AOD use

Annual cost of absenteeism due AOD use places a substantial burden on businesses and society (Roche, Pidd & Kostadinov, 2015)

Estimated that 5% of workplace deaths and 11% non-fatal injuries are due to alcohol (Pidd et al, 2006)

International Labour Organisation estimates that 25% of occupational injuries globally are AOD related (Nenonen & Saarela, 2014)

➔ Workplaces an important harm reduction setting



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Not all industries are equal

Construction industry is one of the high risk AOD consumption industry groups (Gates, Grove & Copeland, 2013)

Analysis of NDSHS showed that the construction industry had an increase in workplace AOD-related problems from 2007 to 2010 (Gates, Grove & Copeland, 2013)

Other industries with higher AOD use include hospitality and agriculture

Variations in AOD consumption remain after controlling for age, gender, income and education (Pidd et al, 2011)



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Workplace AOD interventions

Settings-based workplace AOD interventions include:

1. Health promotion programs
2. Brief interventions
3. Employee Assistance Programs (EAPs)
4. Peer interventions
5. Workplace AOD testing



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Aim of the study

Availability of a service on its own does not guarantee uptake of that service

Important to understand how those in treatment end up making the decision to enter treatment

Aim 1: explore treatment seeking behaviour among those in an industry-supported treatment facility

Aim 2: gauge the extent to which specific workplace AOD interventions may have influenced treatment seeking



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Method

Participants were members of the construction industry seeking treatment at an industry-funded AODG treatment centre
Also supports their families & workers from other industries

Those currently in treatment were invited to participate in an online survey

Extended invitation to those who had been but were not currently in treatment

28 clients entered treatment during data collection – 61% response rate

217 former clients invited – 7% response rate



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Method


Demographics characteristics

Lifetime/recent substance use

Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test (AUDIT)

Treatment Entry Questionnaire
 This is a validated self-administered scale that yields three scores relating to the individuals interval values, internal conflict of guilt and shame associated treatment and external pressures or coercion

Workplace schedules
 Adapted from the Standard Shift Work Index



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Demographic characteristics (N=31)

Male: **77%**

Median age **41** years
 (M=41, SD=8.8, range 24-61 years)


Year 12 or equivalent: **58%**
 Post-school qual: **71%**

Heterosexual: **94%**

Born in AU: **68%**

\$1-\$20,999 before tax: **36%**


In treatment for:
 Alcohol: **32%**
 Drug: **16%**
 Drug + gambling: **16%**
 Alcohol + gambling: **16%**
 Drug + alcohol: **13%**
 Gambling: **7%**



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Work History

How many years have you worked all together?	N=31
Less than 1 year	13%
1-2 years	3%
3-5 years	10%
5-10 years	10%
10-15 years	3%
15-20 years	29%
> 20 years	32%



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Work History


Average hours/week paid employment: **29** hours
 26% not working

Completed an average of **2** hours paid overtime/week
 Completed an average of **2** hours unpaid overtime/week

19% did shift work

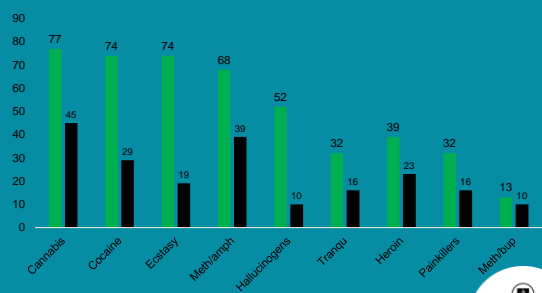
10% had a second paid job

Been in current work schedule/shift system <1 year: **26%**
 Been in current work schedule/shift system 1-3 years: **32%**




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Lifetime and recent substance use



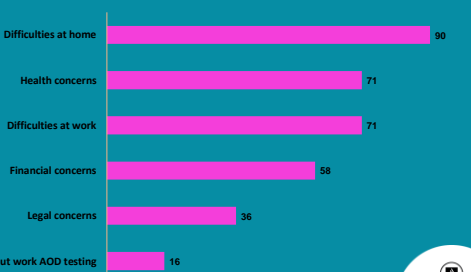
Substance	Lifetime (%)	Recent (%)
Cannabis	77	45
Cocaine	74	29
Ecstasy	74	19
Methamphetamine	68	39
Hallucinogens	52	10
Tranqui	32	16
Heroin	39	23
Painkillers	32	16
Marijuana	13	10




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Why are you/were you in treatment?

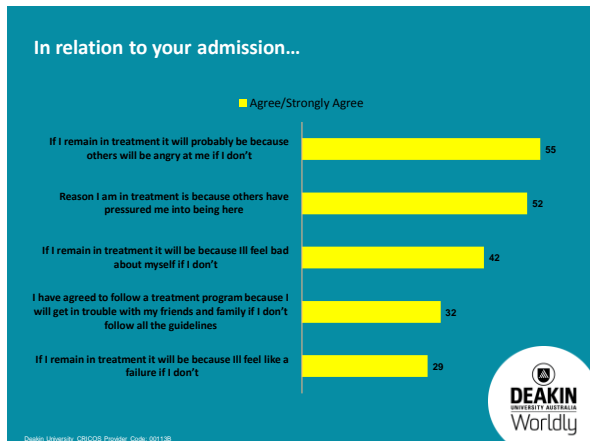
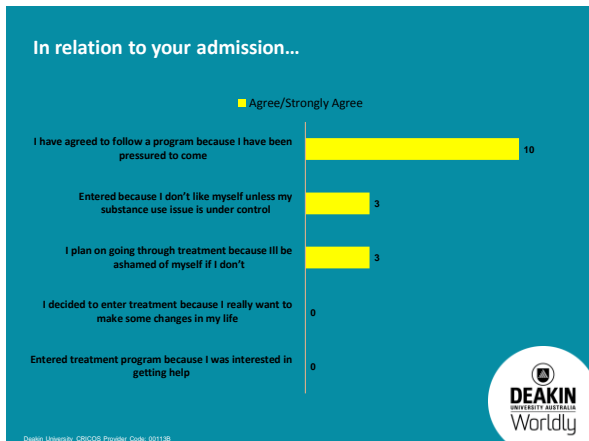
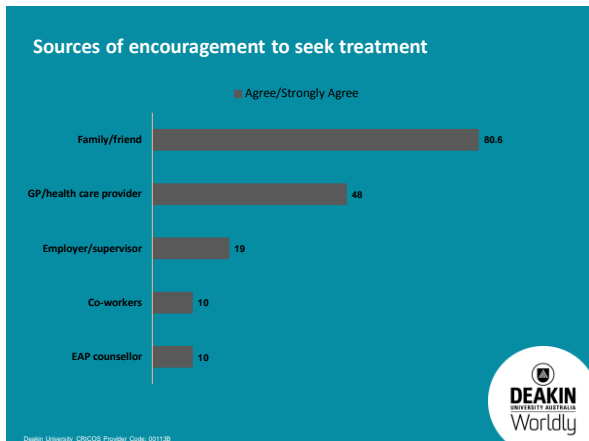
Agree/Strongly Agree



Reason	Agree/Strongly Agree (%)
Difficulties at home	90
Health concerns	71
Difficulties at work	71
Financial concerns	58
Legal concerns	36
Concerns about work AOD testing	16



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Discussion

High proportion of sample were male, similar to other studies within this industry

Why may this be so:
Male-dominated industry?

Male workers more likely to engage in substance use?

Male workers more likely to seek treatment?

Women experience barriers to treatment seeking?

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Discussion

Majority had been in the industry for a long period of time
Exposed to industry-specific factors
Previous studies had focused on apprentices in the industry

No relationship between AOD use and workplace factors

Why may this be so?
Small sample size?

These factors genuinely don't have an impact on use?

Measured past 12 months – look into longer work history?



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Discussion

High proportion indicated their workplace had no AOD intervention
Maybe they do, workers just don't know about them
What does this say about the intervention if workers don't know about them?
23% workplace policy; policies related to lower substance use (Pidd, Kostadinov & Roche, 2015)

7% indicated workplace testing
Mostly conducted at recruitment
Pidd & Roche (2014): "... the evidence base for the effectiveness of testing in improving workplace safety is at best tenuous."

Why in treatment?
Difficulties at home ↑
Workplace AOD testing ↓

Source of encouragement?
Family/friend ↑
Co-workers etc. ↓



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Limitations + Conclusion

Small sample size

Conducted in one treatment facility

Cross-sectional design

Largely limited to last 12 months

Those in treatment } Different groups?
Those out of treatment }

Workplace played a minimal role in motivating/encouraging workers to seek treatment



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Thank you

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