

Students completing courses relating to craft and related trades work, and plant and machine operations had the highest prevalence of tobacco use and risky alcohol consumption while those completing courses in services and sales had the highest prevalence of concurrent tobacco and risky alcohol use

Factors associated with tobacco use, risky alcohol consumption, and concurrent tobacco and risky alcohol use among vocational education students

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BACKGROUND

Little is known about whether socio-demographic factors and type of vocational training is associated with tobacco use, risky alcohol consumption, and concurrent tobacco and risky alcohol use among vocational education students.

AIMS

- To examine tobacco use, risky alcohol consumption, and concurrent tobacco and risky alcohol use by type of vocational training among vocational education students.
- To identify the factors associated with tobacco use, risky alcohol consumption, and concurrent tobacco and risky alcohol use.

METHODS

Design: Cross-sectional study.
Setting: Fourteen Technical and Further Education (TAFE) campuses in New South Wales, Australia.
Participants: Inclusion criteria were age 16 years or older, enrollment in a course that ran for a minimum of 6 months, and being able to speak and/or read English.
Measures: Tobacco use, risky alcohol consumption, concurrent tobacco and risky alcohol use, type of vocational training, socio-demographic characteristics, anxiety, and depression.
Analysis: Mixed logistic regression models, where the model included TAFE campus as a random intercept to adjust for the potential clustering effect of TAFE.



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KEY FINDINGS

Socio-demographic characteristics
N = 1057 TAFE students

- 51% aged 16-20 years
- 66% males
- 27% reside in rural areas
- 82% employed
- 12% identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander

Figure 2. Prevalence of risky alcohol consumption by type of vocational training



Figure 1. Prevalence of tobacco use by type of vocational training

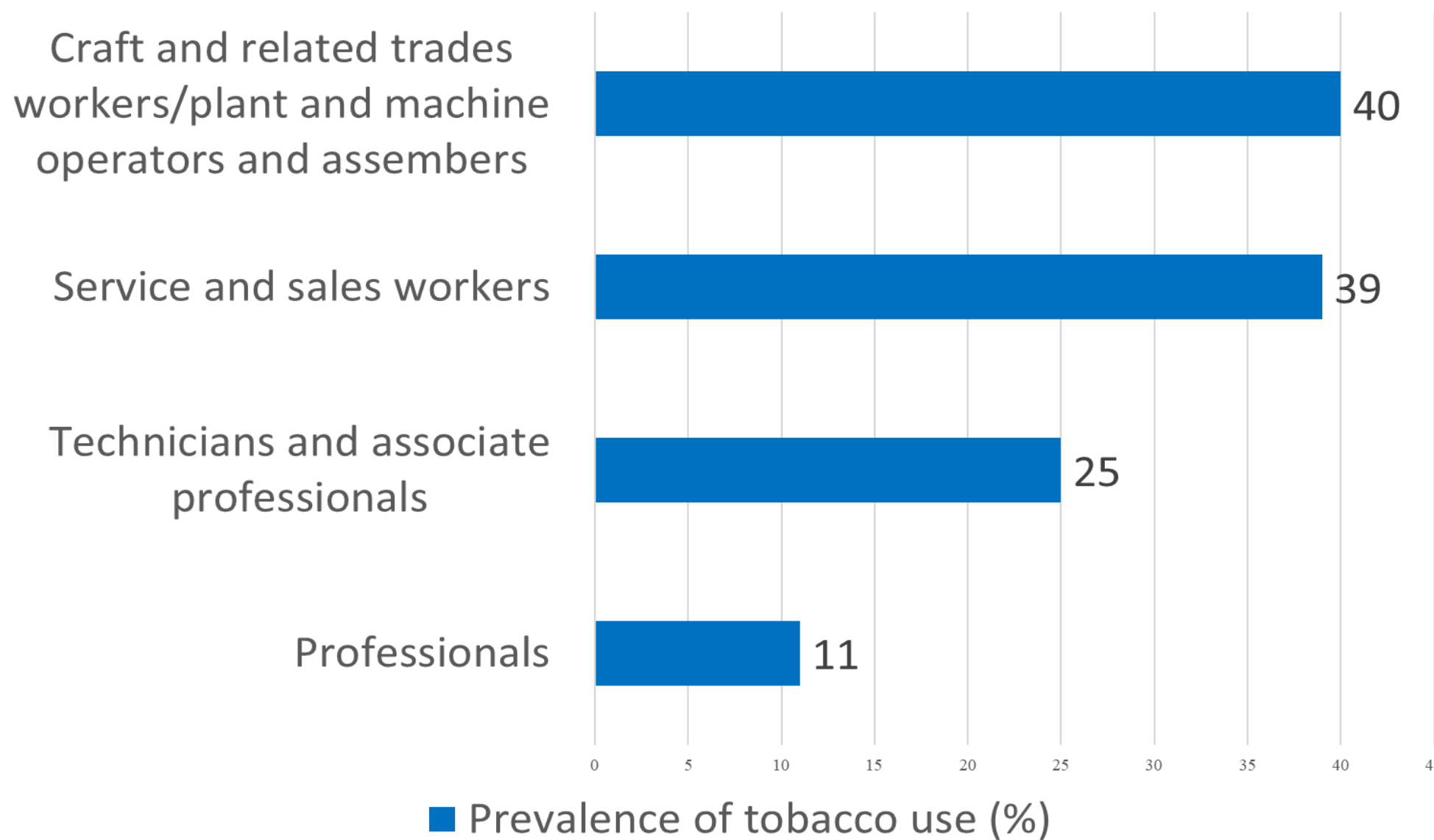


Figure 3. Prevalence of concurrent tobacco and risky alcohol use by type of vocational training

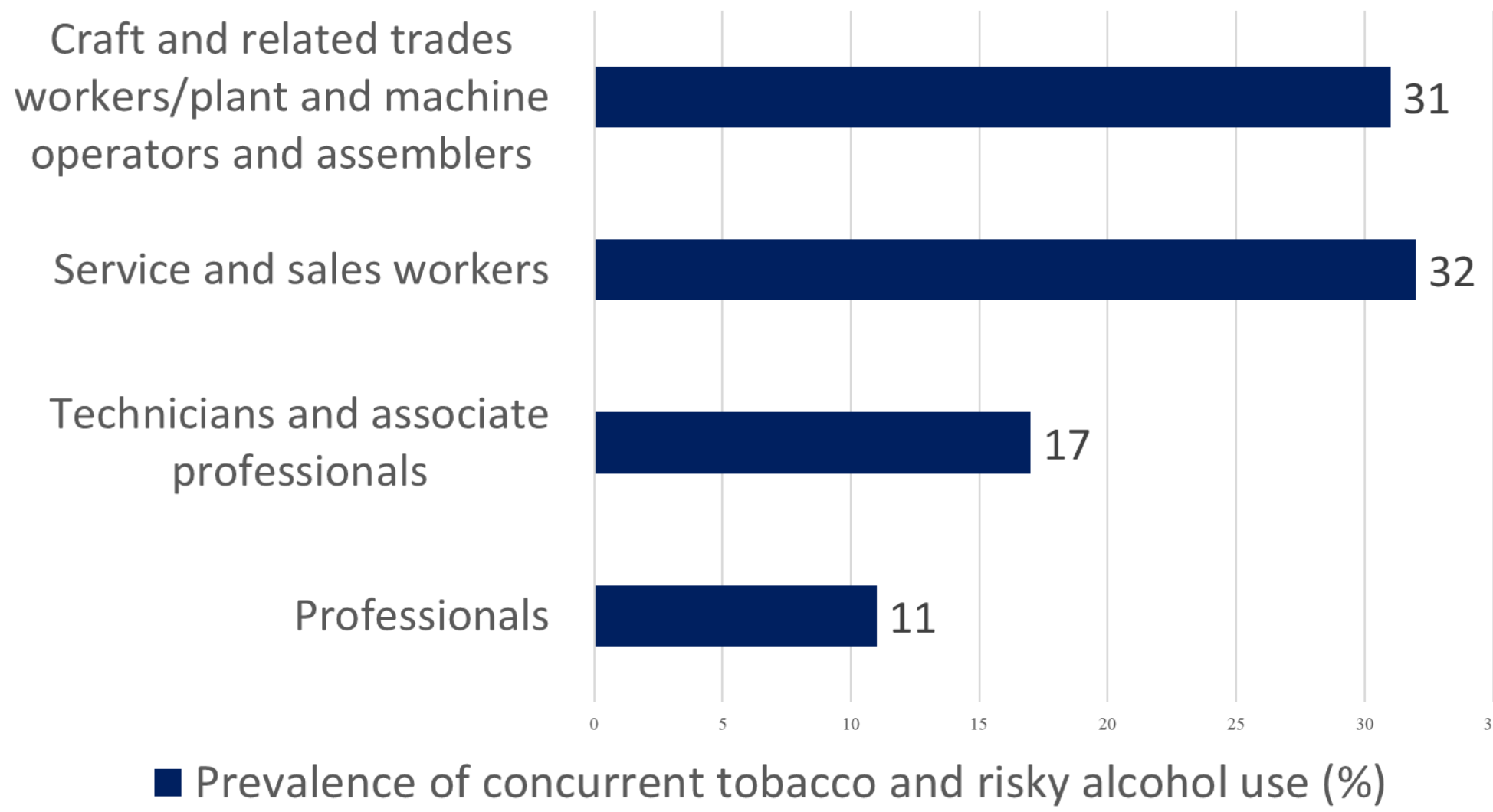


Table 1: Factors associated with tobacco use, risky alcohol consumption, and concurrent tobacco and risky alcohol use

Characteristics	Tobacco use AOR (95% CI)	Risky alcohol consumption AOR (95% CI)	Concurrent use AOR (95% CI)
Age (years)			
16-20	1	1	1
21-24	1.10 (0.77, 1.57)	0.96 (0.67, 1.38)	1.03 (0.71, 1.49)
25+	0.88 (0.58, 1.34)	0.59 (0.40, 0.88)*	0.65 (0.41, 1.04)
Gender			
Male	1	1	1
Female	0.74 (0.47, 1.17)	0.42 (0.29, 0.62)*	0.65 (0.41, 1.03)
Country of birth			
Australia	1	1	1
Other	0.83 (0.42, 1.66)	0.73 (0.41, 1.32)	0.89 (0.41, 1.94)
Education			
Year 10 or less	1	1	1
High school/University/TAFE/Other	0.75 (0.55, 1.00)	1.24 (0.92, 1.67)	1.03 (0.75, 1.41)
Marital status			
Singe/Never married	1	1	1
Divorced/Widowed	0.97 (0.48, 1.97)	1.26 (0.64, 2.47)	0.91 (0.41, 2.04)
Married/living with a partner	0.69 (0.48, 0.99)*	0.82 (0.58, 1.15)	0.72 (0.49, 1.06)
Employment status			
Employed	1	1	1
Unemployed	0.60 (0.36, 0.99)*	0.57 (0.37, 0.88)*	0.53 (0.30, 0.95)*
Residence			
Urban	1	1	1
Rural	0.96 (0.65, 1.42)	0.81 (0.58, 1.14)	0.99 (0.70, 1.40)
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander identity			
Non-Indigenous	1	1	1
Indigenous	1.82 (1.19, 2.80)*	0.93 (0.60, 1.44)	1.35 (0.86, 2.12)
Anxiety			
No	1	1	1
Yes	1.32 (0.88, 1.98)	1.23 (0.83, 1.82)	1.55 (1.02, 2.37)*
Depression			
No	1	1	1
Yes	1.69 (1.12, 2.55)*	1.07 (0.71, 1.62)	1.44 (0.94, 2.22)

Note: *p < .05; AOR = Adjusted Odds Ratio; CI = Confidence Interval

CONCLUSIONS

The findings of this study have implications for the design of public health strategies and interventions for smoking cessation, reduction in risky alcohol consumption, and concurrent tobacco and risky alcohol use among vocational education students. There is a need for tobacco and alcohol interventions tailored to meet the needs of subgroups of vocational education students such as employed people and those experiencing anxiety or depression.