



Cracks in the Ice: Are attitudes towards crystal methamphetamine changing?

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BACKGROUND:

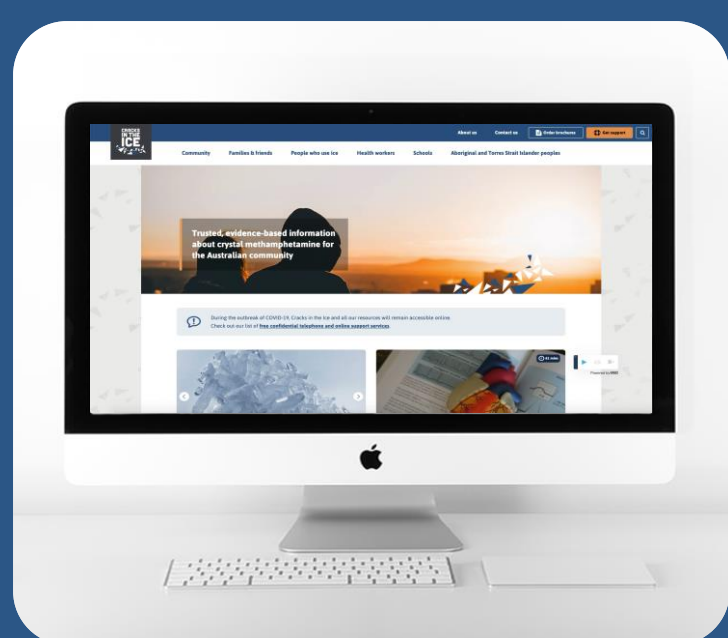
- Crystal methamphetamine ('ice') use is a significant global public health concern and is associated with high levels of stigma.
- *Cracks in the Ice* (CITI) is a centralised online portal for evidence-based information about the drug in Australia. The portal also provides links to treatment and support services.
- Stigma and attitudes are influenced by knowledge, with previous research showing people who have greater knowledge about crystal methamphetamine hold fewer stigmatising attitudes.
- The study aimed to determine if there had been any changes in knowledge and attitudes towards crystal methamphetamine between 2018 and 2022. This study also aimed to determine if interaction with CITI had any impact on knowledge and/or attitudes.

METHODS

- N = 736 Australian participants.
- An online national cross-sectional survey conducted between February 2022 and April 2022.
- Participants' knowledge about crystal methamphetamine was assessed through 18 true or false questions, and attitudes towards people who use crystal methamphetamine were measured using a 14-item, 5-point Likert scale.
- People who had previously visited *Cracks in the Ice* and those who had not ("naïve") were recruited.
- Naïve participants undertook a site tour to assess compare knowledge and attitudes pre and post website exposure.
- Multiple linear regression was used to examine whether stigmatising attitudes had changed between evaluations.

RESULTS

- People who used crystal methamphetamine held fewer stigmatising views than other participants, but still held self-stigmatising views.
- The 2022 sample had less knowledge about crystal methamphetamine in comparison to the previous study in 2019 ($p < 0.001$).
- However, this sample also endorsed fewer negative attitudes ($p < 0.001$), indicating a promising change in societal attitudes about the drug.
- Interaction with CITI lead to an increase in knowledge of the drug, as well as decrease in endorsement of negative attitudes ($p < 0.001$).



CONCLUSION: This results of this study reflect a change in knowledge and attitudes about crystal methamphetamine. CITI plays an important role improving knowledge and reducing stigma through its resources.



67% female



36.5% from regional areas
12.9% from rural/remote areas



Average age was **41 years**

44.8%

of participants reported previously using crystal methamphetamine



72%

had a family member or friend who they thought may be using crystal methamphetamine

After exposure to CITI...



cracksintheice.org.au



Increase in knowledge about ice



Decrease in stigmatising attitudes

Get in touch



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Australian Government

Department of Health
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