

Alcohol, tobacco and other drug use across the Australian workforce: Multiple dimensions of risk for targeting industries and tailoring workplace alcohol and other drug interventions

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Introduction/Issues: The potential for workplaces as settings for alcohol, tobacco and other drug (ATOD) interventions is significant. Most research determining which workplaces to target has focused on industries with the highest ATOD use compared to average employed Australians. While focusing on high-use groups is important for public health benefits, there is a need to consider multiple dimensions of risk such as population, prevalence/percentage and consequences.

Method/Approach: This presentation is based on data from the National Drug Strategy Household Survey (NDSHS) and the Australian Bureau of Statistics Labour Force Survey.

Key Findings: When analysis of ATOD use across industries includes multiple dimensions of risk, several important distinctions can be formed. It is evident that industries considered highest use (e.g., construction, manufacturing), are not those with the highest numbers of workers or consequences, necessarily.

Discussion and Conclusions: This presentation will highlight important areas of industry to target with ATOD workplace interventions, propose a more nuanced approach to determining which industries to target with ATOD workplace interventions and enable interventions to be tailored for at risk worker groups within industries.

Implications for Practice or Policy: By highlighting multiple dimensions of risk for AOD use across different industries –policy makers and industry leaders can more proactively target ATOD use through workplace interventions.

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