

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016, 21 October 2015

Ref No: SQ15-000839

OUTCOME: 1 - Population Health

Topic: Ice Addiction Treatment and Rehabilitation Services

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Xenophon, Nick

Question:

Does the Department have data on the incidences of ice use in metropolitan versus regional and rural areas? Can you provide this?

Answer:

The Department of Health has prevalence data on meth/amphetamine use in major cities versus regional and remote areas, however, this data is not able to be disaggregated by form of meth/amphetamine used (for example, crystal methamphetamine, or 'ice'). The most recent national prevalence data on meth/amphetamine use is from the 2013 National Drug Strategy Household Survey, which reported that nationally 2.1 per cent of Australians aged 14 years and over had used meth/amphetamine in the previous 12 months. Of these recent users, 50.4 per cent reported that the main form of meth/amphetamine used in the previous 12 months was ice.

Prevalence data for meth/amphetamine use by Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) remoteness areas in 2010 and 2013 are provided below.

Meth/amphetamine use by ASGS remoteness areas, people aged 14 years or older, 2010 and 2013 (per cent)

	Major city		Inner regional		Outer regional		Remote/Very remote		Australia	
	2010	2013	2010	2013	2010	2013	2010	2013	2010	2013
Never used	92.8	93.6#	93.8	94.3	94.1	94.0	88.8	87.0	93.0	93.6
Ex-user ^(b)	5.1	4.3#	4.1	4.1	4.4	4.0	7.2	8.6	4.9	4.3#
Recent user ^(c)	2.0	2.1	2.0	1.6	1.5	2.0	*4.0	*4.4	2.1	2.1

* Estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% due to small sample size and should be used with caution.

Statistically significant difference between 2010 and 2013.

(b) Used meth/amphetamine previously, but not in previous 12 months.

(c) Used in the previous 12 months.

Note: For 2013, Remoteness Areas were defined using the 2011 ASGS. Prior to this, the 2006 Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) was used. These data are considered comparable but trends should be interpreted with caution