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Psychosocial Risk Factors Associated with Lifetime Amphetamine-Type Stimulants (ATS) Dependence in Drug Detention Centres: Perspectives from the Multiethnicity Study

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Abstract

ATS dependence in Malaysia is growing tremendously across multiracial Malaysian groups, increasing concerns among public health experts and the community. This study highlighted the chronicity of ATS dependence and factors associated with ATS use. Interviewer-administered questionnaires were administered using ASSIST 3.0. A total of N = 327 multiracial people who use ATS were enrolled in this study. The study findings show that 190/327 (58.1%) respondents were ATS dependent. Malays reported the highest number of ATS-dependent (55.8%), followed by Bajau (21.6%) and Kadazan-Dusun (16.8%) ethnic. Across all races, three factors were significantly associated with the ATS dependence: respondents who had a lifetime history of needle sharing aOR = 0.023 (95% CI: 0.003, 0.183) and a lifetime history of heroin use aOR = 0.192 (95% CI: 0.093, 0.396) were at a reduced

odd of ATS dependent. Meanwhile, being married reduced the likelihood of becoming dependent on ATS with aOR = 0.378 (95% CI: 0.206, 0.693) compared to being single or divorced. This study revealed that the use of ATS among multiracial Malaysians is alarmingly high, including those in detention centers. Comprehensive harm reduction strategies are urgently needed to prevent the spreading of infectious diseases and other negative health consequences associated with ATS use. © 2023 Taylor & Francis Group, LLC.

Author keywords

Amphetamine-type Stimulant; ATS; detention centers; harm reduction; Malaysia; multiracial

Indexed keywords

MeSH

Adult; Amphetamine-Related Disorders; Cross-Sectional Studies; Ethnicity; Female; Humans; Malaysia; Male; Marital Status; Middle Aged; Needle Sharing; Risk Factors; Surveys and Questionnaires; Young Adult

EMTREE drug terms

alcohol; amphetamine; cannabis; cocaine; illicit drug; opiate; psychedelic agent

EMTREE medical terms

adult; Amphetamine-Type Stimulants Dependence; Article; bipolar disorder; cross-sectional study; drug dependence; female; hepatitis C; human; Human immunodeficiency virus infection; major clinical study; male; mental disease; multivariate logistic regression analysis; Psychosocial Risk Factor; public health; rank sum test; risk factor; schizophrenia; substance use; amphetamine dependence; ethnicity; ethnology; Malaysia; marriage; middle aged; needle sharing; questionnaire; risk factor; young adult

Device trade names

Commercial names given to devices, used for branding and differentiation in the market, commonly referenced in scientific and clinical research.

Tradename	Country	Manufacturer
SPSS version 26 software	United States	IBM

Chemicals and CAS Registry Numbers

Unique identifiers assigned by the Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS) to ensure accurate identification and tracking of chemicals across scientific literature.

alcohol	64-17-5
amphetamine	1200-47-1, 139-10-6, 156-34-3, 2706-50-5, 300-62-9, 51-62-7, 60-13-9, 60-15-1
cannabis	8001-45-4, 8063-14-7
cocaine	50-36-2, 53-21-4, 5937-29-1
opiate	53663-61-9, 8002-76-4, 8008-60-4

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