

HOW VALID ARE SELF REPORTS OF PSYCHOSTIMULANT CONSUMPTION? COMPARISONS BETWEEN SELF-REPORT AND BIOLOGICAL SAMPLES OF PSYCHOSTIMULANT USE: A METANALYSIS

Authors: Lauren A McKeogh¹, Amy Peacock², Raimondo Bruno^{1,2}

¹ University of Tasmania, Hobart, Australia

² University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia

Presenter's email: lauren.mckeogh@utas.edu.au

Introduction and Aims: Self-reports of substance consumption are common in epidemiological and treatment studies. Past reviews with people who inject drugs have demonstrated that, in research contexts, consumer reports are valid measures of consumption. However, much of that research has focussed on opioid consumers and people who inject. This metanalysis aims to provide an updated review of the validity of self-report measures when compared to biological samples for the use of methamphetamine, cocaine, and ecstasy.

Design and Methods: A systematic review with meta analysis was conducted examining concurrence between self report and biological measures of psychostimulant consumption (methamphetamine, cocaine, and ecstasy) taking into account the sensitivities of biological measurement for accurate substance detection. The systematic review examined PubMed, EMBase, and Medline as well as grey literature sources.

Key Findings and Conclusion: Full results are not available at the time of submission. However, initial review of studies suggests that self-report of methamphetamine, cocaine, and ecstasy are valid in research contexts.

Implications for Practice or Policy: Accuracy of substance consumption reporting in research is essential. This work demonstrates that when research is constructed to support confidentiality and is respectful of participants than validity of reporting can be anticipated.

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