

# Functional Use of Amphetamine-Type Stimulants and Related Problems Among High-Risk Occupational Groups in China, Nigeria, Philippines and Thailand

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## ABSTRACT

**Objective:** To describe patterns of amphetamine-type stimulant (ATS) use among high-risk occupational groups and model the influence of personal, contextual, and functional motives for use on frequency of consumption and related problems.

**Design:** Cross-sectional survey, with purposive sampling.

**Setting and participants:** A community sample of 1008 participants from commercial drivers, factory workers, shift workers, sex workers and students aged 16-59 recruited from China, Nigeria, the Philippines and Thailand.

**Measurements:** Structured personal interview recording lifetime ATS use and related problems; social and peer behaviours; and perceived personal, occupational and social functions served.

**Findings:** Using ATS for work performance and enhancement and to serve social enhancement and other functions was common, with a distinct profile of influences and motivations discernable for each occupational group. Using for work performance functions were positively related to consumption frequency among the shift and sex workers and students, but not the drivers and factory workers. In contrast, in all groups with the exception of the sex workers, using to serve social enhancement functions were positively related to frequency of use. In contrast, the regression analysis for ATS related problems showed that using to serve work performance functions was generally related to increased problems in all groups. Additionally, using to alleviate worry was also positively related to problems in all groups with the exception of the factory workers.

**Conclusions:** These results have implications for the design and delivery of prevention and early treatment intervention efforts that should be targeted to specific population groups.

## Key words:

Results from the WHO Collaborative study on Amphetamine Type Stimulants